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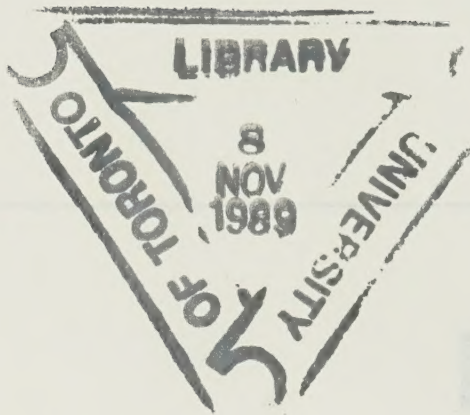
Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Tuesday, April 12, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 12, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBER FOR LONDON NORTH

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Clerk had received from the chief election officer, and laid upon the table, a certificate of a by-election, held on March 31, 1988:

Electoral district of London North—Dianne Cunningham; province of Ontario.

This is to certify that in view of a writ of election dated the 22nd day of February, 1988, issued by the Honourable Lieutenant Governor of the province of Ontario, and addressed to Mrs. Norma Nickle, returning officer for the electoral district of London North, for the election of a member to represent the said electoral district of London North in the Legislative Assembly of this province in the room of Ronald Van Horne, Esq., who, since his election as representative of the said electoral district of London North, has resigned his seat, Dianne Cunningham, has been returned as duly elected as appears by the return of the said writ of election, which is now lodged of record in my office.

(Signed) Warren R. Bailie, chief election officer; Toronto, April 11, 1988.

Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Dianne Cunningham, member-elect for the electoral district of London North, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take her seat.

Mr. Speaker: Let the honourable member take her seat.

Dianne Cunningham, member-elect for the electoral district of London North, having taken the oath and subscribed the roll, took her seat.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Miss Martel: I want to bring to the attention of the House how the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act is causing problems for MPPs' offices. Members know that under the act we can obtain information from ministry offices to help constituents. However, we must be formally authorized by the individual to do this,

and this requirement is causing confusion and delay for MPPs and constituents.

Previously, the commissioner requested that when an MPP called a ministry or government agency for information, ministry staff had to call the constituent, obtain authorization and then call the MPP back with the response. Using the Ministry of Community and Social Services, for example, this process was totally unrealistic. A constituent called us for help with a late cheque. We called family benefits. We had to wait for the worker to be in and try to telephone the constituent, and then, when authorization was given, the worker got back to us. If the constituent did not have a phone, as was often the case, the whole process fell apart.

The delays became worse and worse and our efforts to work with family benefits to help our people became difficult, if not impossible. The commissioner then decided that a letter from an MPP providing authorization from the constituent would be enough to obtain information. In an emergency, the information would be provided if the MPP promised to forward such a letter.

The whole process is still ridiculous and it is causing serious, undue delays for our constituents. The intent of the bill was not to hinder the work of MPPs or ministry staff. I ask the government to recognize that when a constituent comes to an MPP and asks for help, that is authorization enough for ministry staff. That way, we can get back to the business of helping people, which all of us are anxious to do.

AWARDS

Mr. Harris: The Academy Awards were held last night. Today in Hollywood North, we would like to pay tribute to a few winners of our own here at Queen's Park with the Ziggys, our version of the Oscars.

Best actor, the Premier (Mr. Peterson), whose performance on the free trade issue fooled everyone, including himself. This one says, "Star, obviously falling."

The second one is best supporting actor, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), for his unique interpretation of the role of a parsimonious old farmer.

Best actress, the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), for her performance on the Sunday shopping issue, where she had to take the chicken way out and eat crow at the same time.

Best short feature, the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), for her role as Housing minister. Hers says, "One in a million," which represents the number of affordable housing units in the province.

We have a special award for the best performance by a Liberal back-bencher, to Ron Van Horne, who set an example that we believe all Liberals should follow. This one says "Real winner." I will be asking the new member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham) to present this to her constituent.

GROUP HOMES

Mr. Morin: Group homes are getting some bad press these days, which is too bad, because the fact is that, for the most part, group homes work. The Ministry of Community and Social Services funds group homes for abused children, for the developmentally handicapped and for the physically handicapped.

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Group homes provide these people with their only opportunity to enjoy the fundamental right to live with dignity as part of a community. They offer emotional and material support, while encouraging self-reliance and independence. Unfortunately, group homes often have a hard time getting started. While most people support them on principle, many do not want them in their neighbourhoods. Their reluctance grows out of fear that their neighbourhoods will deteriorate and fear that their property values will decline.

I want to remind the members today that while it is natural for people to be concerned, it is our responsibility to keep a level perspective. I urge my fellow members to be firm and untiring in their efforts to inform their constituents of the facts. The facts are that group homes do not negatively affect property values and that neighbourhoods do adjust to their presence.

Let us encourage our government and our constituents to support the establishment of group homes. Let us continue to be responsible and compassionate towards those members of our society who need special help.

PREMIER'S COUNCIL

Mr. Morin-Strom: Yesterday the Premier's Council issued the report *Competing in the New Global Economy*. The report is about Ontario's

economy, what is wrong and how to fix it, where the economy should be headed and what is needed to take it there.

The basic thrust of the report is very good. One might suggest that it lays out an industrial strategy for the province, something I have strongly advocated for many years. We do need higher, value-added manufacturing in Ontario. We do need a tremendous increase in research and development and educational spending. We do need training and adjustment programs for people, with special emphasis on decent wages and full employment. We do need to strengthen our indigenous export-oriented industries so that we control our own destiny and are not primarily dependent upon branch plants.

We do not need a government that issues reports but does nothing. Two years after announcing a major thrust into new technology, the Premier says this report is now the beginning of a process. The report proposes a real industrial strategy for this province. We cannot wait for the world to pass us by. I ask the Premier and his government to get on with the job.

OTTAWA-CARLETON

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Jackson: Yesterday, the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) introduced his bill to create the Ottawa-Carleton French-language school board. My party is quite pleased that the minister has taken this first step in a very important area of education in this province.

However, as I indicated yesterday, much remains to be done by this government. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott), whom the Premier referred to last week as having a legal mind of some regard, advised members during the Bill 30 debate that amendments to allow the voluntary amalgamation of administrative bodies of school boards would have been unconstitutional. It was on these grounds that the Liberal government rejected an amendment put forth by the Progressive Conservative Party that would have allowed unified boards following mutual, but not forced, agreement.

The Ottawa-Carleton bill deals with unifying boards. It also deals with finances. The minister promised special funds from the government until the board can develop its own local tax base.

While this cushion is welcome, it must be recognized that the other Ottawa and Carleton public and separate school boards will be losing part of their funding base. The pie will not be getting any bigger for the other boards in the Carleton area. The government must provide a

cushion for these boards as well; not just the short-term funding answer we got yesterday in this House but long-term funding commitments to all these school boards from this government by increasing to 60 per cent their share of educational costs in Ontario, as promised in 1985 and in 1987.

PALLIATIVE CARE

Mr. Owen: Death and taxes are always with us, and most of our time in this Legislature is spent discussing taxes. Today I want to address that other certainty, and that is death.

Recently, after a lengthy illness, a friend died. At his request, he was allowed to spend his last weeks out of hospital and at home. What I am talking about has a fancy phrase called "palliative care." What it means is a caring and responsive way for a person and loved ones to cope with dying and bereavement.

Here in Toronto, the cost per day in the palliative care unit of the Salvation Army hospital is one third of the cost in an acute hospital. Costs in a special hospice are said to be lower and costs of palliative care at home even lower.

The philosophy of palliative care departs from the cure system of active diagnostic and therapeutic intervention and, instead, embraces a care system which concentrates on the quality of life remaining. Put more simply, it enables the dying patient to look out at trees rather than sterilized walls and to hear the birds singing rather than hear food trays on trolleys. The privacy of death can be better faced with the support of friends and loved ones in familiar surroundings.

As elected servants, we must work towards helping in this cause with the services of physicians, nurses, social workers, aids, therapists, home attendants and homemakers. Just as we allow maternity leave for the mother expecting and caring for a baby, so we, with our federal counterparts, should consider assisting a parent or spouse to stay at home with a dying patient.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS LEGISLATION

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The people in this province interested in the local education issues should be aware of the sham of Liberal election reform. Bill 76 has taken away the right of an individual elector to protest gerrymandering. There is no court that you can go to if you are opposed, even though many municipalities have that coverage now.

Bill 77 removes the rights of people whose first language is not English or French, but whose

second language is French, to declare themselves French electors at a time when we are starting to elect French boards in Ontario. Bill 106 makes it impossible for any board to allow anybody to get election contributions as a tax deduction because of the way it has been set up.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: I would like to draw the members' attention to a visitor in the lower west gallery, Bob Eaton, the former member for Middlesex. Please join me in welcoming him.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ALTERNATIVE MEASURES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: My statement today involves the alternative measures program under the Young Offenders Act. Today I wish to announce that an alternative measures program for young offenders under the age of 18 has been established in Ontario. This has been accomplished in collaboration with my colleagues the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) and the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay).

My ministry is responsible for youngsters up to the age of 16 and the Ministry of Correctional Services provides services for those between 16 and 18.

The House will recall that on March 17 the Ontario Court of Appeal decision in the Sheldon S. case resulted in a stay of proceedings in what were termed "qualified young offenders cases." At that time, the court required provincial implementation of an alternative measures program pursuant to the Young Offenders Act. Members are aware that the Attorney General is appealing that decision to the Supreme Court of Canada.

In the interim, a young offender who violates any one of some 75 sections of the Criminal Code, or some other federal statutes, could now be in a position to choose between having the case dealt with in a court or applying for consideration under this new alternative measures program. Examples of such offences include causing a disturbance, theft under \$1,000, fraud under \$1,000 and taking an automobile without permission.

Specifically, any first-time and some second-time young offenders who admit to committing one of these Criminal Code offences, who express genuine regret and who seem unlikely to run afoul of the law again would now be prime candidates for the alternative measures program.

The program's provisions include making an apology, restitution to the victim, unpaid community work and enrolment in crime prevention programs.

Crown attorneys will make the initial determination of which young people are eligible for the program. The crown will then forward the application to one of my regional officials, who will conduct an investigation and make the final decision. If the application is approved, the offender will enter into a written agreement regarding the duties to be performed.

Upon successful completion of an alternative measures program, charges against the young offender will be dropped. This means that a repentant young offender will not have the burden of a criminal record, providing there are no further brushes with the law.

Members will appreciate the speed with which the government has moved in this matter following the decision of the Court of Appeal just three weeks ago. This alternative measures program will remain in place in Ontario pending the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada.

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NONPROFIT HOUSING

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would like to take the opportunity this afternoon to inform the honourable members of changes to the maximum unit prices which govern the production of nonprofit housing in Ontario.

The ceiling costs for nonprofit housing are being substantially increased. This will affect both provincial programs and federal-provincial initiatives. The new cost guidelines, effective immediately, will apply to all nonprofit units to be produced in 1988.

The new guidelines, developed in conjunction with the federal housing agency, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., will ensure that we will continue to produce reasonably priced housing. The average maximum unit price for a nonprofit home in Ontario will rise by 10 per cent. In the Metropolitan Toronto region, the maximum unit price will rise by 18 per cent.

Across the province, this represents an additional capital expenditure of nearly \$60 million next year and will allow for the production of about 1,000 homes that might not otherwise have been built.

In the light of tremendous cost pressures, particularly on the price of land, the new ceiling will help groups such as Cityhome, the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Co. Ltd. and the Peel

Non-Profit Housing Corp. produce much-needed housing.

Nonprofit sponsors have become an increasingly significant force in the production and management of affordable housing throughout this province. There are now more than 400 sponsoring groups involved with almost 600 projects in 301 municipalities. Most of these groups are small neighbourhood groups.

Increasing the capital cost guidelines is a small but important step in supporting our nonprofit groups.

RESPONSES

ALTERNATIVE MEASURES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

Mr. Allen: I want to respond to the announcement with respect to the alternative measures program which the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) has described in its content very well. I believe his remark that members will appreciate the speed with which the government has moved in this respect may be somewhat qualified by the fact that this is perhaps the only province, Prince Edward Island excepted, which does not have in place for this age group any alternative measures program. I am not sure what kind of speed the minister is talking about.

It is quite apparent that this minister, as against the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and perhaps the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay), is extremely sympathetic to this kind of program. His own ministry had studied this question in certain test cases in Windsor and Kingston and came to the conclusion that young people needed quick response in situations of delinquency of this kind, where they could get quick access to remedial expression of guilt and also of restitution and programs that would make sense in terms of the crime committed.

As a result, his ministry is totally on side with this. The Attorney General, for some reason or other, remains lockstepped with the notion that kids have to appear in court, even though they have to wait sometimes five, six, seven, eight or nine months in order to get there. That makes no sense with young offenders. Perhaps we can plead with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the cabinet to lodge totally this whole dimension of young offenders with the Minister of Community and Social Services so that he may take charge and apply the principles that ought to be applied with respect to these young people.

Certainly, as far as we are concerned, the program is great. The only problem with it is that

is interim, pending the Attorney General's misguided application of an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Mr. Hampton: Following the announcement of the Minister of Community and Social Services, I think it is only appropriate that we comment a bit upon the legal aspect of this case. The minister is to be congratulated on his announcement. It is only too bad that the government did not have the foresight to do this about three years ago, instead of being three years behind the eight ball. The fact of the matter is that the current young offenders system and the current youth court system result in delays of cases for up to a year.

We have situations, for example in Brampton, where a solicitor attends last September to obtain a trial date and is told, "Maybe we can give you a trial date at the end of March." That is not justice for young people. That is a terrible situation, and an alternative measures program that will lead to better justice and quicker justice for young people is certainly superior to waiting around for a year to have a day in court, which in many cases is not a meaningful day for many young people.

NONPROFIT HOUSING

Mr. Breaugh: I want to congratulate the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) for moving to alleviate a very frustrating problem of caps on proposals for affordable housing. I note that the amount of increased expenditure is about the same amount of money that she was unable to spend last year, so I do hope that in addition to raising the caps here, she will get her staff a little more competent so they can actually process these applications.

I cannot fail to mention one other little point, because my day did not start off on a good note this morning. This morning in my edition of the *Toronto Star* there was a report on the ministry's own activities in land speculation. It is sad to note that this afternoon the minister stands in the House and announces a small detail will be rectified. That is good news, but it really was sad to find out this morning that Ontario, and more specifically the Minister of Housing, has just set an all-time record for the cost of land in the sale of the Malvern properties.

The initial lots have been sold now from properties already owned by Ontario in Malvern. The average price for them, according to the *Toronto Star* report, is \$4,000 a linear foot, and the average cost of a lot will be \$160,000 for a 40-foot lot.

One cannot help but believe that the government would have been a lot better off to hold on to the land in Malvern, to use that for affordable housing. That would have produced more units in a better and more direct way, because as people on the Scarborough council pointed out, the minister is going to have a hell of a time building affordable housing if she cannot find any land on which to built it.

Mr. Cousens: I would like to respond to the statement today by the Minister of Housing. If words were bricks, we would have more houses for all the people in Ontario. The fact is the minister's statement today is just a further aggravation to the people who have concerns.

Interjection.

Mr. Cousens: This is serious business, and I am afraid the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has another serious thing on.

I have to say that what we are seeing here today is no solution. How many more housing units are going to be created by this announcement? Can the minister tell us, when she has a chance to make a statement out in the scrum or when she is talking to some of her friends, just how many new affordable houses this will add towards her 102,000? Why is it she has made this statement so late in the game? Why is it that we are talking now about deadlines for people to make applications? Is the minister going to have any extension for applications on this?

We have a problem in housing in this province, and I think what is happening is that the problem is heating up around the minister. She has come out with one announcement today, when we are looking for significant policy statements from this government to indicate what it is going to do to address the needs of those who want affordable housing. This is not the end; this is not even the beginning of the end; this is just another one in the hodgepodge that is coming from this ministry.

I repeat, if words were bricks, the people in Ontario would have something to live in, because all we have had are promises and words and no significant action.

ALTERNATIVE MEASURES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

Mr. Sterling: I would like to congratulate the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) on announcing the alternative measures program. I want to indicate at this time, however, that I am very much in support of the appeal of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) on this particular case.

I think it is important that we maintain the principles of justice not only for adults but also for the young people of our province. It is important that when young people are charged with an offence, they are given the right to a public trial in terms of what they are charged with.

What the Supreme Court has decided is that we want to give that particular decision to social workers behind closed doors. Quite frankly, while I have every confidence in our social workers and in what they might decide in terms of their goodwill etc., we are most concerned with the principle of justice that when a person is charged with a criminal offence, he has the right to an open and public trial.

We encourage the Attorney General to carry on his appeal in this regard. The position of our party, as it was when we were in government, is the same as it is now, and is in tune with the Attorney General.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question period is going to start very soon.

1400

ORAL QUESTIONS

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Premier. It has been widely alleged that the Premier had a meeting at the end of March with Premier Bourassa. I wonder if the Premier can tell us whether it is true that such a meeting took place on or about March 31 and if can he tell us whether or not the Meech Lake accord was one of the items under discussion.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member is correct on both counts.

Mr. B. Rae: Perhaps the Premier would agree with me that one of the things the committee that has been looking at the Meech Lake accord has agreed on is that the process of secrecy which surrounded the passage of the first two drafts of the accord is one of the things that critics of the accord are most critical about. I think all members of the House were agreed in the debate on the question that the process was one which had to be changed.

I wonder if the Premier would be able to tell us today what was the substance of those discussions with respect to Meech Lake. Will the Premier come clean and tell us precisely what is going on in discussions between him and Mr. Bourassa and between him and any other premiers or any others in the country, to tell us

precisely what his intentions are with respect to the Meech Lake accord?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: There are no secret intentions my friend is not aware of. Yes, I chat regularly with Premier Bourassa. I chat regularly with other premiers and the Prime Minister from time to time, as I am sure that he chats with many of his colleagues from time to time. Surely there is nothing untoward about that.

The member is right, some people have had lots to say about the process that was involved, but there is nothing secret going on. There are discussions going on in each province, each on its own timetable, with respect to the Meech Lake accord.

There is nothing new or no new information to share with my honourable friend in that regard. Meech Lake is being discussed in a committee here and the committee is deliberating on that matter. We will look forward to its report whenever it is available.

Mr. B. Rae: The Premier cannot have it both ways. He cannot have a meeting which is unannounced, which does not appear on his itinerary, which is not discussed with any other leaders in the House, so far as I am aware, in any way, shape or form, which is not discussed with the committee, and then say that it is not a secret meeting. That is my definition of a secret discussion.

Will the Premier tell us, were there any discussions with respect to changes in the Meech Lake accord? Were there any discussions with respect to amendments to the Meech Lake accord, or to concurrent resolutions which might be moved at the same time as the Meech Lake accord? Does he not think he had better discuss those with the House in a full report rather than do something which appears to be being done in secret—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The questions have been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member asked three questions and none of those things were discussed. I am sorry to disappoint him.

Regularly, as he may or may not know, we review just generally the status of the political mood in Quebec and in Ontario. There were no secret deals made; nothing special happened. We regularly have a long list of agenda items—co-operation between Ontario and Quebec—that we review from time to time: the political mood in the country, what the status of Bill 101 is and a lot of other matters.

That is a normal part of governing, and I am sure my honourable friend would understand that.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the Premier some questions following on from both the questions that I asked him last week with respect to speculation in apartment buildings in the province and questions that were raised by my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) today with respect to Ontario's own speculation in the housing business.

I wonder if the Premier would not agree that there must be something wrong with Bill 51, the Residential Rent Regulation Act, if, for example, 206 St. George Street in Toronto sold on March 11, 1986, for \$1.6 million and was resold on May 14, 1987, for \$5.1 million, an increase of 212 per cent in 14 months.

Would the Premier not agree with me that that speculation speaks at least to the expectation on the part of the new owners that they are going to be able to pass on financial loss and economic loss to tenants and that that is precisely why the prices for these buildings are going up the way they are going up?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: If the honourable member would like specific answers, I would happily refer it to the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek).

Mr. Speaker: I believe that was referred to the Minister of Housing.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the increases in the price of all kinds of accommodation in the city of Toronto have been going up a great deal. I think it is not clear what the reasons are in this particular case.

Mr. B. Rae: If we have to bring in every day a listing which shows the minister what the trading is and if she is not able to appreciate why that is happening, then I do not know what she is doing as Minister of Housing, because it obviously is a problem.

By way of supplementary, I would like to refer to another example of a small apartment unit, only six units, on Glen Manor Drive that sold on January 29, 1986, for \$220,000, resold on July 15 for \$440,000, resold on July 15—the record is not stuck; it was resold on the same day—for \$580,000, which is a profit of \$140,000 made in one day.

I wonder if the minister would not agree that this kind of speculation is obviously fuelled by a bill that has loopholes which allow landlords to pass on financial loss and economic loss to the tenants in addition to other kinds of losses they can pass on in terms of operating expenses, and that is precisely why we have the kind of

speculation which is now commonplace in Toronto.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The amount of increase that could be passed on to tenants in relation to any refinancing costs is five per cent.

Mr. Breaugh: Five per cent? One wonders sometimes where the minister has been.

Can the minister tell us why she would put a limit of 18 per cent on nonprofit groups, which you announced today, and yet sit by and watch land speculation of the kind that has been litanized in here day after day in both apartment buildings and the sale of land? Is it because she has a conflict of interest: that she has made Ontario itself one of the biggest land speculators in Ontario?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member obviously knows very well that the maximum unit prices which we give to nonprofit groups for building housing all over the province are the product of a negotiation between the federal government and the provincial government because of a shared program.

The increase that we have proposed today is very a significant one. We believe that a significant number of more nonprofit units will be able to be produced as a result of that increase, which is responsive to changes in the marketplace, including changes in the cost of land.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Solicitor General and it relates to the ongoing issue of the Sunday shopping question. As the Solicitor General will recall, on December 1 she made a commitment to the workers of this province relative to protection that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) was intending to bring forward. Specifically she said on that date, and I quote, "The province has already said that it will be addressing the matter of the labour laws...and that the Minister of Labour will be coming forward with a bill before we come forward with a retail bill that we are proposing." Is it the intention of the government to bring forward a bill protecting workers prior to the introduction of a Sunday shopping bill?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I would like to assure the member for Sarnia that we are addressing this problem. The use of the word "before" may have been a technicality that is incorrect in so far as we plan to bring legislation together. Howsoever, it is obvious that it would be worked on before, as indeed my bill has been worked on before. The introduction will be more or less at the same time, although we cannot stand and speak

together, so I consider this rather hair-splitting. The legislation will be forthcoming.

1410

Mr. Brandt: Let it not be said that I would wish to split hairs on this issue, but I think it is in fact of some interest to the workers of this province when a bill will be brought in to protect their interests.

By way of question, when the minister was sitting on a committee in this House dealing with the issue of Sunday shopping, she indicated great compassion for the workers, and particularly for those who were single-parent mothers and had problems with respect to being forced to work on a Sunday. Is it the minister's intention to protect those kinds of workers from being forced to work on a Sunday?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The member for Sarnia will have to be patient for just a little while longer in order to be fully advised of the intentions of this government in this regard. He knows, as he has stated, that we have expressed concern and that we are dealing with these matters in a most serious manner. We will bring forward these matters within at least a week and a half.

Mr. Callahan: Take a couple more holidays, Andy.

Mr. Brandt: The member for Brampton South seems to think the member for Sarnia was at the ball game yesterday. Let him be advised, by way of question to the Solicitor General, that I was speaking in the riding of London North and I received from that riding a great deal of concern, which has continued for some time now, over the Sunday shopping issue.

I want the minister to know, first of all, that I was not at the ball game yesterday, contrary to her colleague's comments. Second, I want her to know that we on this side of the House are very concerned about when she is going to introduce this bill and whether or not workers will be protected.

Could the minister indicate to the House whether her comment that the bill will be introduced within a matter of weeks is correct, or is it in fact correct, as the Premier (Mr. Peterson) indicated, that the bill will be introduced this week? When do we anticipate getting this legislation before the House?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: As the member well knows, the introduction of bills is often influenced by many things. I was very clear when questioned in a scrum on this that if indeed the bill was not introduced before the budget, it might well be delayed, which might have put it

into a matter of weeks. But I now anticipate that, presuming nothing unforeseen occurs, it will be introduced before the budget, which is next Wednesday. I will be glad to assure the member that unless something very unexpected happens, the bill will be introduced before the budget next Wednesday.

Mr. Brandt: I know that will bring a great degree of comfort to those who are concerned about whether their rights will be protected and when this bill will be introduced.

Mr. Speaker: And is the question to the Solicitor General?

GRAHAM SOFTWARE CORP.

Mr. Brandt: My second question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and it is with respect to certain actions being undertaken at the moment by the Ontario Development Corp.

As the minister will be aware, in February 1987 the ODC settled with Graham Software with respect to a suit it had against the company at that time, which I believe it withdrew, in the amount of some \$300,000. Subsequent to that, in March 1988, there was a decision taken by the ODC to pursue Graham Software's account, which is of course in deficit with the ODC in the amount of \$5.1 million.

I wonder if the minister could enlighten this House as to what changes took place between February 1987 and March 1988 with respect to the ODC position in regard to Graham Software.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member will know that the whole issue of Graham Software is ongoing, and I am sure the member will know that the ODC has now initiated legal proceedings to recover those funds. Because of that and because it will now be before the courts, I cannot tell the member exactly what is going to come out of it, but I should tell him that we have been very concerned and we have expressed our concern.

As a result of ongoing investigations and legal advice we have received, we feel there is a case to be made. I cannot tell the member whether we will realize anything, because I do not know that the assets are there, but we certainly have launched a legal suit, and that will proceed through the courts. I will keep the member informed as to its progress.

Mr. Brandt: I think we are justifiably concerned. When one goes back to the time in which we raised the question of a judicial inquiry into some of the matters that were still outstanding within the ministry, the minister indicated at that time that the Provincial Auditor would be

more than acceptable in terms of reviewing some of these unpaid accounts.

Let me quote from the Provincial Auditor in regard to the matter of Graham Software: "In our opinion, based on information supplied, Graham Software did spend the money invested by IDEA in accordance with agreements signed with IDEA."

The auditor took a look at this in February 1987 and indicated that he felt that Graham Software had in fact spent the money appropriately. A year and one month later, the Ontario Development Corp. comes before this Legislature, by way of the actions it is taking, and indicates that it is going to pursue the collection of the full \$5.1 million.

Mr. Speaker: The question would be?

Mr. Brandt: Does the minister think the auditor was incorrect in his position at that time, or what has changed the case so dramatically over the course of the last 13 months?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Two things have happened. Number one, I am sure the member will know that in December we announced that the auditor would be looking at the various investments of the IDEA Corp. as a result of accusations made by the leader of the third party and members of his party. That review is ongoing, and I cannot tell the member exactly when that report will be coming forward, but it should be coming forward pretty soon.

In the interim, the ODC has determined, as a result of legal advice it has received, that it should initiate civil action. As of March 4 that civil action has been initiated. The auditor has been informed that the civil action is taking place. Notwithstanding that, he is doing his investigation separately, the legal civil action is proceeding separately, and when any of that information is forthcoming, I will be happy to inform members of the House of what has happened.

Mr. Brandt: With respect to the current audit by the Provincial Auditor in regard to IDEA Corp., when that study is completed and the auditor's report is completed, would the minister commit himself to present that report and table it with the Speaker of the House or with the chairman of the standing committee on public accounts of the Legislature as opposed to having the report submitted directly to the minister? Will the minister in fact give us an undertaking that we can get the report immediately so that we can undertake to investigate our own conclusions with respect to the findings in the auditor's report?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The auditor has a mandate to act. That mandate was given to him by my ministry. Under the terms of his mandate, he will be reporting to this ministry. I will give the member the assurance that, as soon as practical, I will table his results in the House so that all members can be apprised of them.

RETAIL SALES TAX

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Treasurer, who tells us he is very concerned about fairness in Ontario's tax system. The Treasurer will know that, in Ontario, working people—individuals, families—pay the seven per cent sales tax on a wide range of services, everything ranging from telephone services to car repairs to shoe repairs to repairs on appliances, while at the same time profitable businesses do not pay the sales tax on things such as management consulting, engineering services, computer services, advertising and stock brokerage commissions. Does the Treasurer think that is fair?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: These things are ongoing and under review. I think it would be unwise for me at this stage, just a week and a day before the budget is presented, to express a view either way, other than to say all these matters are under consideration.

Mr. Laughren: I did not ask the Treasurer if it was going to be in his budget; I simply asked him if he thought that was fair.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The member asks things the way he wants and I answer them the way I want.

Mr. Laughren: That does not satisfy anybody but the Treasurer himself.

The Treasurer and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) both have indicated that they are looking for new sources of revenue. Could I at least have assurances from the Treasurer that no personal taxes whatsoever will be increased until he has had a serious look at imposing a tax on these business services, which are now exempt and which could raise approximately \$300 million a year in the province of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am not in a position to give the honourable member any assurance other than to say that, in a review of all of the tax base leading up to the budget, we are looking for fairness and equity in all parts of the tax base.

1420

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs. Cunningham: My question is for the Premier. As he is aware, the majority of retail

workers tend to be women, many of whom are single parents. These single parents depend on a variety of services to care for their families. Many of these services are not available on Sundays. For instance, in our home community of London, there is not one nonprofit child care centre that opens on Sunday. As well, of the 14 private child care centres we contacted, not one offers any services on weekends. Can the Premier advise us what plans his government has to ensure child care facilities are available for these single parents if they are forced to work on Sunday?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me say at the outset that I welcome the honourable member here, and I am very glad she is right here where I can keep an eye on her over the next little while. As an old friend, I congratulate her and know she will make a great contribution to this Legislature. She will serve the people of London North and London very well, and I welcome her.

I should say to the honourable member that it is a source, I am sure, of some embarrassment to her and to myself, and shall I say to the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) as well, that the city council in London has had one of the worst records across this province in providing child care. I am sure it is something that has concerned her. It has concerned the Solicitor General as well as it has concerned me. I think one of the things the member will want to do with her new-found soapbox is use all the good influence she has, and she has considerable influence, to persuade the city council of its responsibility in providing child care, the way that so many other communities do in this province.

Mrs. Cunningham: With all due respect, let me respond to the Premier by saying that on March 31, the people of London North sent a strong, clear message. Unfortunately, today the Premier is not listening or answering the questions, and I am here to tell him that there is a real concern. The issue here is not just day care services and it is not just that the services are not totally available in London; they are not available across the province. There is a real need. It is not a joke.

Again, in our home community of London, a total of 148 buses are operated by the London Transit Commission during rush hour from Monday to Friday. On Sunday, the number of buses being used is one third of that total. Day care and transportation are two services that will have to be upgraded if wide-open Sunday shopping is allowed. Can the Premier tell us what financial commitment his government is pre-

pared to make to municipalities to assist them in supplying the needed level of service if they choose to allow wide-open Sunday shopping?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say to my honourable friend, and I am sure she has grasped this, that what this government is talking about is a local option. A community will be able to make a decision with respect to Sunday shopping if it so chooses. Presumably, she has the view that London should not be wide open, and many others share that view. That is a decision that will be made by the council. On the other hand, if Sault Ste. Marie or some other community decides to open up, then it will have the right to do that under this legislation. It becomes the cities' responsibility to make those decisions if they choose to do so. Other than that, they can operate under the framework of the law.

I think my honourable friend, with great respect, is misinterpreting what has been happening in this Legislature in the last little while. I think she would do well to follow closely the debate. I am sure that, being the reasonable person she is, she will be persuaded that there is a real genius in the legislation that will be presented to this House by this government.

PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITY

Mr. Sola: My question is to the Attorney General. We are approaching the dawn of the 21st century, yet many of the laws and statutes governing our society date back to the 19th century. It is clearly obvious that these laws sadly fail to reflect the incredible progress of society and the complexities that have thus arisen.

A case in point is the Bills of Sale Act. This act stipulates that a good, while still on the seller's property, although purchased and legally paid for, may be confiscated if the seller claims bankruptcy. This may be avoided only if the bill of sale has been registered at the personal property security registry branch of the county within five days of the purchase.

Is the Attorney General aware of this situation? If he is, will he consider updating the act to reflect conditions today or, if it obsolete, revoking it all together?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, I think the bill relates to the responsibilities of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye) and I will refer the question to him, if I can.

Mr. Speaker: It is referred to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I say to the honourable member that we are aware of the difficulty, and

of the fact that a piece of legislation that has been in existence for some period of time has, in a very recent case, had an unfortunate effect.

I should say to the member that we have been looking at a package of amendments to the Personal Property Security Act. In fact, the discussions have been ongoing, really through most of the decade of the 1980s. I can say to the honourable member and to the House that we are very close to having a package of proposals to bring to the Legislature. Among those proposals, I can indicate to the honourable member, is the repeal of the Bills of Sale Act. In the current situation it has made matters very difficult, and our consumer services bureau is working to try to rectify that problem.

Mr. Sola: As reported in the Toronto Star, one of the victims of this act was Cliff Newman. He has an invoice marked "Paid in full," a builder's certificate, a boat licence, an insurance policy and the letter from the builder stating his ownership, yet his boat has been seized to pay off the builder's debts. He has been forced to hire a lawyer to fight the case. Can the minister step in soon to save people like him from further costs in claiming what is rightfully theirs?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Yes, I will make a commitment to the honourable member to get back to him and to advise him as to the progress.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: But I indicated, in answer to questions outside of the House last Thursday, that the consumer services bureau had stepped in; I say this to the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) so that he will hear this answer, because I know he will want to hear it.

In the case the member refers to, two of the secured creditors involved are the Department of National Revenue and one of the chartered banks. I would think that groups such as those might be prevailed upon to show some reason and understanding, given that these individuals, and there are some 10 of them, did not realize they had to register their interest while the boats in question remained on the property of the failed company.

METRO WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH UNIT

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question for the Minister of Health. The Minister of Health will be aware that there have been long-standing problems at the Metro Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, and she should be aware that in the last couple of weeks, statistics have emerged that show that up to 30 per cent of Windsor-Essex

area students have not been properly immunized, the highest number of any community in the province. In fact, the average in the province is only three per cent not properly immunized. Six of the seven nursing supervisors have resigned in the last two years, and our one medical officer of health is leaving on August 1, 1988.

Does the minister not understand that this is an absolutely essential service in our community and every other community across the province? What is she prepared to do to make sure that the services are properly delivered in our community?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the member knows, the public health units are autonomous under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. However, there are provincial standards for provision of services. He raises an issue which is of grave concern to me, and this is that we check the status of immunization of children.

In fact, and this is very important, there is no evidence to suggest that these children have not been immunized. The question is whether the health department has checked the status to determine that they have been. It is my understanding that ministry officials have been working with the public health department to determine that children have been properly immunized. I want to assure the member of my interest in that particular issue.

1430

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The minister can fall back on the local autonomy option, as she always does, but the reality is that 75 per cent of the money spent in the public health unit is her money, is provincial government money, and she has a responsibility to make sure that money is being spent efficiently and effectively in our community.

Is the minister also aware that there have been substantial charges of financial irregularity at this public health unit, that there has been evidence produced that shows the administrator of the health unit has hired staff in one of the local businesses he owns in our community?

Does the minister not understand that, in addition, there are three lawsuits for unfair dismissal that are going to cost that public health unit thousands of dollars to settle? Does she not understand that it has gone far beyond anything to do with local autonomy and that it is her responsibility, if she is serious about health promotion in Ontario, to step in and use the powers she has under the Health Protection and Promotion Act and ensure that the services are provided in our community?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Again, it is important to understand that serious allegations have been made in the Windsor area. It is the responsibility of the local board of health to determine and investigate those allegations.

I can tell the member opposite that the chief medical officer of health of the province, as well as ministry officials, are assisting the local board in Windsor to ensure that the program requirements of the Ministry of Health are being met in the Windsor area.

GOVERNMENT LAND

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. On December 14, some four months ago, I tabled an Orders and Notices question for the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten), requesting a detailed listing of vacant provincial lands. The minister indicated he would have an answer on or about March 7. That is over a month ago, and I have yet to receive a response to this Orders and Notices question.

I assume from the *Globe and Mail* today that the minister and her cabinet colleagues have studied the inventory of these lands and have made some decisions as to the suitability for housing.

Will the Minister of Housing today tell this House what other lands are being considered for housing, in addition to the ones which are in the *Globe and Mail* article?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would like to redirect that question to the Minister of Government Services.

Hon. Mr. Patten: The work is still being done on compiling the list of all lands that are owned by the provincial government. It is an onerous job and requires further study; it has never been done before. The job is presently under way, and the member will receive that information when it is available. We expect that to be soon.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cousens: I have a letter—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think we will just wait so we can hear what is taking place.

Mr. Cousens: Let it be on the record that neither the Minister of Housing nor the Minister of Government Services has told us what lands are being considered for housing, but the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert), a Liberal back-bencher, has a letter dated April 11 that he was about to send to his residents yesterday. As he says, "as announced today," I guess he is using this announcement that the

Globe and Mail got which I did not get. Here he says: "According to the recent Comay report, this site has the potential to be developed for office, commercial, limited ancillary retail or government uses. Potential for a residential component of seniors' housing and condominiums also exists."

It is another example of one ministry doing one thing, making announcements to its own caucus and not making them to the rest of the government—

Mr. Speaker: Your supplementary is?

Mr. Cousens: Will the minister, either minister, table in this House the Comay report, so that all members of the Legislature may be as informed as the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere?

Hon. Mr. Patten: The member has asked two questions. One is a complete inventory, which we are working on. The second one is the Comay report, which looks specifically at sites in the Metropolitan area. That report is before cabinet at the moment. We expect within days to begin to respond to the recommendations of that report. It can only truly be done, however, on a site-by-site basis, and we will be making these announcements within a matter of days.

REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Mr. Offer: I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Recent reports have indicated a growing concern surrounding the regulation of real estate agents. Some of these concerns have been raised by the president of the Ontario Real Estate Association regarding the ease with which agents obtain a real estate licence. What is the minister's ministry doing with respect to upgrading the educational requirements of real estate agents and when can we expect these improvements? I have been waiting to ask that question.

Mr. Jackson: Give us a break. The member for Mississauga North was the parliamentary assistant for three years. Why did he not ask the minister?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: My friend the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) is just disappointed that he was not able to ask this kind of important question today. He may not even be on the list today.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The honourable member has asked an important question. Anyone who has seen today's article in the press, or recent articles

on the whole issue, will understand the importance of the question. I can say to the honourable member that, in addition to the basic course which will continue to be taught, we have been discussing with the Ontario Real Estate Association and others having a series of additional courses in the first two years in which an individual is licensed as a real estate salesman. Those courses would be on real estate law, on appraisal and on mortgage financing.

As well, because the nature of the industry is changing so quickly, we have also had discussions and hope to come forward with a series of requirements that will have all salesmen on an ongoing basis do an additional 30 or 40 hours every two years so that changes in the laws that we make here, and other changes in the patterns of the marketplace, can be taught to those agents so that individuals will have the most qualified possible real estate salesmen.

Mr. Offer: The minister will be aware that, though the large majority of real estate agents are conscientious in representing their clients' interest, there is the need for monitoring by his ministry with respect to the legislation and the provisions which his ministry currently oversees. What steps are being taken by the minister's ministry with respect to improving the means by which these provisions are monitored in this field where public interest and confidence is so very essential?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The honourable member is correct. In my speech last month to the Ontario Real Estate Association, I indicated to that body that it really has only one thing on which it is trading, and that is public confidence, and that if they were to lose the public confidence they would as an industry be in real trouble. Certainly, the vast majority of brokers and agents understand that message and the need for absolute honesty and integrity in the marketplace.

That being said, we have increased significantly the number of individuals in the registrar's office. That has already begun to have an effect in that in 1987 the number of proposals for revocation of registrations more than doubled, and I expect those numbers to climb even higher this year. I say to my friend the member for Mississauga North, who is very concerned because of the marketplace that his constituents are dealing in, that we will continue to increase our audit and investigation activities and hope that by doing so we can protect consumers in this very important consumer purchase activity.

TARIFFS ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Mr. Hampton: My question is for the Treasurer. When the 15 per cent softwood lumber export tax was imposed upon Ontario softwood lumber producers, the government of Ontario in acceding to the tax stated, and I can quote the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) on this, "Our first concern and our first priority for the use of the dollars from the tax is to minimize disruptions in unemployment in the sawmilling communities of northern Ontario."

Given that the softwood lumber export tax has been in place now for over a year, can the Treasurer tell us how much money has accrued to the provincial Treasury from the federal imposition of this tax on Ontario softwood lumber producers?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not have the exact number before me but I think it is about \$30 million.

Mr. Hampton: Given that the government's first priority for the use of these funds was to assist northern Ontario communities that would be affected by this softwood lumber tax and given that both the Minister of Natural Resources said this and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said it, can the Treasurer tell us how much money has gone in assistance to the communities of Kapuskasing, Thunder Bay, Longlac, Hudson and Keewatin, all of which have had sawmill shutdowns during the past year, all of which are in part due to the softwood lumber tax?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the member is aware that as well as the priorities the honourable member has described, it was also said by representatives of the government that we wanted to use it for more special education assistance in those communities where people might otherwise be dispossessed and require some additional opportunity for upgrading. As far as I know, there has been a broad array of programs available in northern communities to improve education and transportation as well as business opportunities.

Interjections.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It is very hard to put a tail on any particular dollar.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I believe this would be the appropriate time to remind all members of standing order 24(b). "When a member is

speaking, no other members shall," and I underline shall, "interrupt...."

PLASTIC EMI SHIELDING INC.

Mr. Cureatz: I would just like to say to my now new seatmate and colleague that sometimes it is helpful to wave a piece of paper around because it gets all those Liberal back-benchers really angry, especially the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney) and the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger) over there.

Mr. Speaker: I was listening for a question.

Mr. Cureatz: Mr. Speaker, I listened with intensity and you allowed my new seatmate a great length of time with her question. I was hoping you would allow me the same opportunity.

I have a question. It is not to the Four Ponypeople in front who really run this show, although it should be. It is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. I want to say to the minister that I have been in contact with his office on a regular basis and have written him on March 23 about the closure of Plastics Group Technologies in Bowmanville. There have been over 300 people laid off in my riding of Durham East.

I have yet to receive from the minister or his office any concrete statement about what his ministry is doing in trying to ensure the continuation of that plant and the continuation of the workers at that plant. Can the minister bring us up to date?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I would be pleased to bring the member up to date. As he knows, the Plastics Group Technologies Inc. and its subsidiary EMI have been having some problems. We in the government, through one of our agents, the Eastern Ontario Development Corp., have provided them in the past with an outstanding amount of \$1.98 million. We recently approved another loan of \$1 million as an export support fund, an additional loan on top of that of another \$1 million, and recently when it got into problems we provided the opportunity for another \$250,000 in emergency funding.

Unfortunately, because of management problems that they are having, they have lost the support of their bankers. Because of this, there is a receiver in there, Price Waterhouse. Their major customer, IBM, has withdrawn its moulds. I have personally interceded with IBM to make sure those moulds stay in Canada. They have agreed to do that. But until the internal problems of that company are resolved, unfortunately, I cannot paint too optimistic a picture.

Mr. Cureatz: That being the case, I say to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), can the minister assure me that he is working along with his colleague the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) to ensure those areas of protection that are available in legislation to the employees will be protected in the event that the black picture that the minister painted for us today does unfold as he is predicting?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I can assure the member that we will continue to use all of the resources at our disposal to see if we can salvage the company, and if it is irretrievable all of the efforts and all of the avenues available through the law will be implemented to make sure we protect the workers.

Mr. Mahoney: Might I first of all pass on the condolences of those of us here in the back benches to the newest member of the Legislature for the seat selection her leader picked. However, she should not worry, she will be alone there most of the time.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Mahoney: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. There is a serious concern amongst municipalities regarding the issue of waste management in Ontario. Municipalities are scrambling to deal with the increasing costs and responsibilities associated with finding new landfill sites, incorporating waste reduction programs and considering additional measures such as incinerators. A number of municipalities recently have passed resolutions requesting the province to take over the responsibility of waste disposal altogether.

I would like to know the minister's response to the suggestion that the province take over the purview of waste disposal or if it should remain within the responsibility of the municipal sector.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member may be aware that for some seven and a half years I had the opportunity to serve on a local council, St. Catharines city council, and I know how jealously local municipalities keep their particular responsibilities and look at the autonomy they have earned over the years.

For this reason and the fact that they are very close to the people themselves and are cognizant of some of the idiosyncrasies within those communities, I know it is valuable for them to retain that traditional and long-time responsibility.

As a ministry, of course, we are prepared to be of assistance to them in whatever way we can be.

Our role is a regulating role. I know it is difficult sometimes within municipalities when individuals do not, particularly if it is a larger municipality, want it in a specific geographic area.

Our responsibility is to ensure that whatever method or site is selected, that site and that method are environmentally acceptable. We will continue to play that role of close co-operation with the municipalities, while at the same time permitting them to retain the kind of autonomy for which they fought for so many years.

Mr. Mahoney: I would like to thank the minister for leaving me time for a supplementary.

A number of municipalities and some regions are beginning to feel overwhelmed by the garbage crisis. They are looking to the province for help and the day is rapidly approaching when the problem may be put at the province's doorstep regardless of our position.

What advice does the minister have for those municipalities to prepare them to continue to assume their rightful role in coming to grips with this very critical problem?

1450

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member, who himself has had some considerable experience locally as a very well known and strong member of a local municipal council, would know how things have improved considerably in terms of the funding that is available for municipalities at the present time to deal with their problems of waste management.

I cite as an example, of course, that when we came into office as a government, \$750,000 was at that time invested in the field of recycling. That is now close to \$6 million per year and, of course, that is climbing.

I want to indicate to the member that we have funds that are available, and that have been made available to the municipality in which he resides, for instance, to assist people with the environmental assessment process. Looking after the landfills in perpetuity is extremely important and we are prepared to provide assistance financially for the close-out costs. In terms of capital costs for finding a particular site and establishing it—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. New question.

HOME CARE

Mr. Allen: That was a long wait. I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. I want to impress upon the minister that the problem with the homemaker services currently under the integrated program

and in community independence is not just that globally there is a lot of turnover happening in staff and therefore there is a difficult problem of replacement, but services are actually being withdrawn from individuals in those services.

Let me give the minister the example of a case—whose name I cannot give him, but it is authentic—in the Huron county integrated homemaker program. This gentleman, when first visited by the homemaker, was so obese that he was unable to get out of his chair by himself and was talking about suicide. The homemaker worked with him, even making this chap's clothes, and took him to hospital, the day care centre and about the community; and changed his life, literally.

When he was told that the homemaker—and the minister should listen to this—was going to have to go on mother's allowance because she could not afford to maintain herself as a homemaker in that service, he broke down and cried. It has been impossible to replace that person's service since that day.

Will the minister tell us what he proposes to do to make certain that the funding is there to provide the wages to provide the workers who will maintain the services to this gentleman in Huron county?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member has raised this point before and I have drawn to his attention that we are currently reviewing the entire integrated homemaker program. My colleague the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) is reviewing the homemaker services through Health's home care program.

We fully recognize and appreciate the difficulties the honourable member is bringing to our attention. We realize that our community-based programs designed to keep people out of institutional settings, whether they be homes for the aged, hospitals or whatever, depend to a large extent on the quality and the availability of the very kinds of people he is talking about. There is no disagreement with us about that, and that is in process right now.

With respect to the particular incident the honourable member brought to my attention just now, I would add that he is aware of the fact that we are also reviewing the amount of income that a person on social assistance may earn and still retain income assistance and benefits. That is also under review. We hope to deal with both of those problems very shortly.

Mr. Allen: There is a lot of reviewing going on and we are waiting around a lot in this House in that respect as well. But I would remind the

minister that when he spoke to me in answer to a question last week, he answered in these terms, "We were...trying to make some decisions as to the extent we are going to expand the opportunities to use homemakers as opposed to restricting the opportunity and increasing the wages of the current staff."

That suggests to me that there is bad news for the homemakers. Is there not? The minister is going to engage in an ongoing tradeoff between low wages and universal accessibility to a program that is province-wide. The minister cannot have it both ways. The low wages will destroy the system, and if he insists on having a restricted program, that will not be what he promised us. Which way is it going to be, and when can the minister tell us how he is going to resolve that dilemma for himself?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member has correctly assessed the dilemma that I find myself in and that the government finds itself in. I indicated to him last week that the \$60-million amount we had set aside for this program has already reached \$58 million and we are only halfway through the process.

My sense at this moment is that my first obligation is to see to it that what is in existence now is protected and that expansion is the second phase. That is likely the way we are going to go. I indicated before that is still in the process of being reviewed, but that is the likely direction.

MOOSE HUNTING SEASON

Mr. Pollock: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Can the minister tell this House the reasons behind his decision last week to delay the beginning of the moose hunting season from the first week in October to the second Saturday in October?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: As most people are aware, and especially those who seek to go out and hunt moose in the great province of Ontario, we are in the process of developing, in keeping with getting the moose herds back to what they were, a management program that is going to see that we can enjoy the hunt and at the same time bring the animals back in the numbers that were here not that many years ago. I am sorry to say that, because of poor management in the past, the herds were depleted. The fact is that now we are managing them in a way that is going to bring those herds back.

The season is decided by our biologist as to when is the appropriate time to issue the tags to hunt moose, and I think one consideration has to do with the rutting season, to answer the question

raised by the honourable member. We are moving the season back so that we do not take unfair advantage of moose seeking friends.

Mr. McLean: I have a supplementary question to the minister, and I find that answer totally unacceptable. I am sure the minister is aware of his ministry's agreement to give the tourist outfitters at least one year's notice prior to the change in the opening day of the moose hunting season. The minister knows that these outfitters have already spent their advertising budgets based on the original date, that many hunters have already booked their holidays and that many outfitters have already booked for the original date.

Why is the minister using this high-handed approach and showing little regard for these tourist operators who have already got the time booked and the hunters who have already got their holidays booked? He should have given them a year's notice. Why did he not?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We have been working very hard at managing the moose herds. We have also taken a recommendation by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters that hunters should wear blaze-orange so that they can be easily recognized in the bush so that there will not be any danger. I would like to say, as minister, I am prepared to allow the gentleman over there to hunt in that jacket; there will not be any problem identifying him in the bush.

Having said that, certainly we take into account the need to give adequate notice. In some instances, those initiatives are taken by the biologist in seeking to do what needs to be done to maintain the recovery of the moose herds in Ontario.

I would take into account what the honourable member is suggesting and bring it to the attention of our people to make certain there is adequate notice given when it can be given.

FUNDING OF SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS

Mr. Faubert: My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. I understand that the Ontario Arts Council is an arm's-length agency of her ministry; however, I would like to advise the minister of a policy of the Ontario Arts Council which discriminates against orchestras seeking operational funding that are located in urban centres such as Metropolitan Toronto.

According to this policy, the Ontario Arts Council will not fund a new orchestra if it is located within an hour's drive of a presently funded orchestra. Therefore, an orchestra such as the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra cannot

receive operational funding because it is located within an hour's drive of the North York Symphony Association or the East York Symphony Orchestra, which are also funded by the Ontario Arts Council.

Mr. Speaker: The question would be?

Mr. Faubert: My question is, can the minister inform this House of what action, if any, can be taken to allow for each funding proposal to be judged on its merits rather than its location?

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: I thank the member for his question. Actually, what is happening in Ontario is that we are blessed with a wealth of artistic talent and that has shown up through our newly established symphony orchestras. We realized that in 1986, when there were 12 new community symphony orchestras asking for funding.

1500

In answer to my colleague's question, the Ontario Arts Council, through the music office, asked for a year to review its policy and, in effect, funded only those symphony orchestras which are receiving funding at the moment. It is expected that their review will come down in May, and I would be more than happy to share the results of the review with my colleague.

Mr. Faubert: Perhaps the minister can then advise what other alternatives for funding are available through her ministry to such orchestras which have been turned down on this policy by the Ontario Arts Council.

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: Our ministry works hand in glove with the Ontario Arts Council in providing technical funds. For example, we would provide money for equipment purchase, money to allow schoolchildren to listen to the community symphony, and technical and management information. I would be more than pleased to provide the member with a list of program grants which are available through the ministry, awaiting the time when the Ontario Arts Council comes down with a favourable report.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Hampton: Pursuant to standing order 30(a), I wish to give notice and register my dissatisfaction with the answer given by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) today to my question regarding the imposition of the softwood lumber export tax.

Mr. Speaker: Notice, I presume, will be given to the table.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Campbell: I present a petition as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We ask that the Retail Business Holidays Act be maintained and strengthened."

WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Villeneuve: I have two petitions. The first one is addressed to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned taxpayers and voters of Ontario, wish to express our extreme displeasure with the Health minister's recent announcement to open so-called regional women's health centres to increase access to abortion. We urge you to reverse their decision immediately."

It is signed by in excess of 40 petitioners from the city of Cornwall and area. I have also received some 600 letters against abortion on demand.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Villeneuve: I have another petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, would seek your indulgence to keep stores closed on Sundays.

"We, the undersigned, do live in your community and frequent your place of business on a daily basis.

"We feel, perceive and understand that God instituted a six-day work week so you and others may rest on Sundays: to attend church, spend time with family and rejuvenate the body for better function and service for the week that is ahead."

It is signed by 125 petitioners from my riding.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. McGuigan: I have a petition signed by several hundred people.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that

would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

Mr. Cousens: I present a petition to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

That is one petition signed by several hundred Ontario residents.

I have a second one on the same general subject, as concerned citizens, and there are two pages of names:

"We request, in accordance with our constitutional rights, to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference. In this context, we request that the naturopaths of Ontario be guaranteed, through an act in the Legislature of the province of Ontario, their right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment.

"I heartily endorse and support the concepts and philosophy of naturopathic medicine and hope that your assistance will be forthcoming in such an important matter."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

LFP MANAGEMENT LIMITED ACT

Mrs. Fawcett moved first reading of Bill Pr11, An Act to revive LFP Management Ltd.

Motion agreed to.

CITY OF TRENTON ACT

Mrs. Fawcett moved first reading of Bill Pr40, An Act respecting the City of Trenton.

Motion agreed to.

CITY OF SUDBURY ACT

Mr. Campbell moved first reading of Bill Pr19, An Act respecting the City of Sudbury.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INTERIM SUPPLY

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for interim supply for the period commencing April 16, 1988, and ending June 30, 1988.

Hon. Mr. Conway: If I might, Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has just been called out. He has asked for me to inform the House that he will return presently. In his stead, the parliamentary assistant, the member for Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli), will be here.

Ms. Bryden: I am not sure whether the Treasurer knew I was coming up next. I hope that was not the reason he left.

Anyway, yesterday when I was speaking on the interim supply motion, I was urging the provincial Treasurer to ensure that he had allocated sufficient funds in his interim supply bill to step up the provincial enforcement of the Retail Business Holidays Act, because that is the only way to ensure a pause day throughout the province. That sort of day appears to be the choice of a majority of the population, according to polls that have been taken and visits that have been made to communities by committees of the Legislature.

I also pointed out that local option Sunday opening or closing laws means "no option local option," it means a wide-open Sunday because of the domino effect, which many people have pointed out to the provincial Treasurer. It means an end to our present pause day.

I also reminded the government that it is extremely difficult to draft and enforce laws to protect workers from intimidation or coercion to work on Sundays once we have a wide-open Sunday. Employers can too easily find other reasons for firing an employee who refuses to work on Sundays.

1510

The Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) today promised that the government would introduce legislation under the Employment Standards Act to protect workers from being required to work on Sunday against their will. She does not have to draft new legislation because the former Minister of Labour, the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), introduced just such a bill in December 1986, at the time when it appeared that the flouting of the Retail Business Holidays Act and the amount of intimidation going on were of crisis proportions.

But the interesting thing is that the bill introduced by the then Minister of Labour in

December 1986 was allowed to die when the 1986 session prorogued. Obviously, it was a grandstanding act by the minister, and it appeared that the government was aware it was not necessary to put such legislation on the statute books.

Yet we know that even under the present lax administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act there are many people being coerced into working on Sundays when they do not wish to do so. We also know that employers are using it to break down their permanent jobs in the retail trade into part-time jobs. For them this may be a money-saving operation, but it does spread the employment periods over seven days a week, even though one employee may not work more than five days. It becomes a series of part-time jobs, and that is what our retail industry is degenerating into. There will be very few full-time, permanent jobs in that industry.

Of course, to the customers that means less experienced staff and less service from experienced people. It also means that people seeking employment in the retail trade will not be able to earn a living wage if they are paid at part-time rates without benefits. Of course, if they are organized, they could organize for benefits for part-timers and they could organize for premium pay for working on Sundays. Really, I think they should, but unfortunately most retail employees are not organized yet.

If they did organize and got the full benefits for part-time workers that full-time workers get in the way of benefits and premium pay for working on Sundays, that would be another reason why opening on Sundays adds to the cost of retailing and will ultimately add to the cost of goods. Is this what the Liberal government is proposing to do to the consumers of this province and to the economy of this province? I suggest that the whole idea is a measure counterproductive to the development of our economy and to the development of full-time employment.

There was one aspect also that I did not deal with yesterday in talking about what was so wrong with the government's approach to the lack of regulation of store hours in this province. They appear to be following what a recent author called the "money culture" philosophy. That is the term used by Lewis Lapham in a recent book, entitled *Money and Class in America*, to describe our society, dominated by the "make-a-buck philosophy."

It says that anything that makes another buck for business is good, regardless of its effect on the community and on people. Anything that

limits unfettered free enterprise and is devoted to maintaining the quality of life for people is bad. He called it "cultivation of the arts of higher shopping," and I think that is what this government appears to be promoting by its "no-option local option."

I wonder if the Liberal government still considers itself a small-l liberal government, or is it interested only in the economic yardstick for any change in our society? Does it care about people, workers and families who will all be disadvantaged by a wide-open Sunday?

There are people who criticize the present Retail Business Holidays Act as being full of anomalies and unfairness, and I admit that there are some anomalies in it. I think we do need an amending bill to the act to remove some of the anomalies and make it a better bill, but that is a far cry from tossing the hot potato to the municipalities and hoping they will work out the proper exemptions and amendments that are needed to the whole scheme, because if any amendments are going to be made they should be province-wide.

Members will recall that last December, after a long discussion and a lot of lobbying from bookstores, we did remove one of the anomalies which said that bookstores cannot open on Sundays but that news-stands, which often sell books, can open on Sundays; or that drugstores, which sell books, can open on Sundays. In that way, we decided that bookstores should be allowed to be open on Sundays if books were for sale in other places.

We also recognized that purchasing books is not just a retail transaction, that it is also partly browsing through the latest books in order to find out what one should be purchasing, and one has more time to do that on Sundays. So we decided it was partly a recreational activity, partly an educational activity and partly a retail activity.

These are the sorts of amendments that should be considered, those that remove inequity in the act between different groups. But that does not mean we just back away as a province from any regulation of store hours and store openings in this province. In fact, when I mention store hours, I think the provincial government should not back out of that particular area as well. It has very little control under present legislation over store hours, which means that we can have 24-hour operation in almost every field. This means greater risk for the employees who work the graveyard shift right through until morning. It means greater police costs to try to protect those people. It means that young teenagers are at risk

because they are the ones who often take those jobs.

We should have a limitation on the number of operations that can operate 24 hours a day. You need some emergency services. You need emergency gas stations in the 24-hour period and you need emergency drug services, but you do not need every store given the opportunity to open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That is another area where this government and the past government have abdicated their responsibilities to see that we have a safe and humane society.

The government must show that it does care for people and that it is not just seeking to help retailers make more bucks by offering local option to the municipalities. It must show that it is concerned about these social problems created by widespread Sunday openings and widespread lack of store hour control. To increase competition in this way is not to add to the development of the economy but to take away from it and also to deify what they call the "money culture." I hope that the Treasurer will disavow himself and his government from that approach—and the Solicitor General who has responsibility for this legislation.

1520

There is one other area that I wanted to draw to the Treasurer's attention, and to that of the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton), with regard to the proposed Leslie Street extension and the Bayview widening, which has just been recommended to Metro council by the two urban transportation committees from Metro and by the executive committee of Metro.

I attended the public meeting which discussed this proposal, which is a proposal to cut through existing neighbourhoods and connect up Leslie Street in the north with Bloor Street and Gerrard Street, and ultimately the Gardiner Expressway in the south. It is called the missing-link extension, and I think those who are proposing it are part of the missing link because it will not improve transportation in this city. It will destroy neighbourhoods and it will not really benefit businesses very much with the route that is being cut through. They should be planning not for downtown but for regional development and for regional centres in this big Metropolitan area.

It is absolutely wrong-way planning for this part of the second last decade of the century. It is getting back to the old idea that if you have congestion you build more roads, and if more roads create more congestion you create more roads, and so on. Instead of changing your focus from the growth of only one centre, namely

downtown Toronto, you put your focus where the original Metro Toronto official plan put its focus. That focus was the development of multiple city centres within Metropolitan Toronto, and it was premised on the idea that decentralization of commercial development was the best thing for shoppers, for development by industry and for transportation. It also would enable better traffic management through spreading out the demands for routes to downtown and spreading them to the multiple city centres.

The Treasurer has a big say in this because at the present time under formulas in the Ministry of Transportation for assisting cities in transportation affairs, either a third or 50 per cent of the costs are borne by the Treasurer. This is one area where I think the Treasurer should put his foot down and say that he is not going to participate in this kind of wrong-way planning, which will cost far more than the present estimated cost no doubt, because it will take one or two years to go through the processes of being approved. Of course, we hope those processes will end up not being approved, but the Treasurer should make it clear at the very beginning of the process that he is not prepared to put up provincial money for this kind of outdated transportation.

This dates back to the old expressway philosophy, that if you had lots of expressways you were going to solve transportation problems. We know it simply increased transportation problems. We know it simply increased congestion in the downtown city. We know it simply increased the demand by developers to develop the downtown city, so that now we have so many developments going up in the bottom quarter of the city of Toronto that I wonder why the railway lands do not sink under what they are planning to put on them, and the Front Street area as well.

The government must show that it recognizes public transit as the key to overcoming urban transportation problems. It must recognize this by refusing to fund additional road development, especially this kind of road development to bring more traffic into downtown Toronto. It must, of course, hope that it can persuade the city council in Toronto and Metro council to stop promoting downtown development to the present extent and to encourage multiple city development in the area, because downtown development is the main cause of the growing demand for increased traffic access to the downtown. It also leads to demands for new one-way routes or solutions, none of which will really answer the problem.

Once you build the Leslie Street extension and do the Bayview widening, you then create further

demands for further construction to relieve the bottlenecks in it. There will be a bottleneck at Bloor and Castle Frank where the cars come out of the present Bayview extension. There will be demands at Gerrard where they come out of the Don Valley Parkway and there will be demands down at the Gardiner to deal with the extra traffic.

It is time the Minister of Transportation and the Treasurer got together and tried to work out a sensible provincial sharing of sensible transportation proposals and not just go along with everything that is passed by Metro council or city council.

In that respect, another area the two ministers should be looking at is the proposed expensive GO Transit extension to Hamilton. I have nothing against Hamilton getting good service, but what it is really being built for is to allow the developers to develop Oakville, Milton and all the intervening points that are already causing us tremendous problems of urban sprawl, large lots and extra costs of servicing them with everything from transportation to policing, fire protection and so on. We in the core are having to pay for all that, as are taxpayers throughout the province, as a result of encouraging this kind of wide-open development. The more public transit we provide for letting that process go on, the more it will cost the taxpayers of this province.

That does not say that we should not be encouraging development of new housing, but we should be encouraging the right kind of new housing that does not use up as much land and that is not providing mini-castles on acres and acres of land in the suburban and ex-urban areas. I think that is something our government has to start looking at. Otherwise, the bill is going to be so tremendous to service this urban sprawl that we will all end up finding that we cannot afford to buy houses ourselves because the taxes are so high.

I hope the Treasurer and the Minister of Transportation will take my remarks into account.

1530

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

The Deputy Speaker: Do some members have questions and comments pertaining to the member's speech? If not, before we get on with the next speaker, pursuant to standing order 30, the member for Rainy River (Mr. Hampton) has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Treasurer and Minister of Economics (Mr. R. F. Nixon)

concerning the softwood lumber export tax. This matter will be debated at six o'clock on Thursday, April 14.

INTERIM SUPPLY (continued)

Mr. Pope: I am glad to be able to rise and participate in this debate. I think the last time the Treasurer and I had a chance at repartee the Treasurer was making some comment about appointments to Nordev, the northern Ontario regional development program. So I thought I might take advantage of this occasion to carry on with the kind of debate that the Treasurer seems to like to engage in. I have a whole list of items that I think have to be dealt with and I want to talk about, some 30 in all.

I want to preface my remarks by addressing the concerns of the member for Rainy River (Mr. Hampton) and the nonanswer of the Treasurer. It is an important economic issue. As you know, Mr. Speaker, by now it is clear that this government participated in the development of the resolution of the softwood lumber issue with the United States.

This government agreed in writing not only to the imposition of a 10 per cent solution, as it was called at the time, but also to an allocation to Ontario of Ontario's share of the burden of the softwood lumber tax. Of course the Premier (Mr. Peterson) denied it in interviews with the Globe and Mail, but the fact of the matter is that, three weeks before the denial, it had been done in writing and ratified by the cabinet.

The Premier, in order to minimize the political damage from his subversive participation in this arrangement with the American producers, went to Sudbury the following January and announced that the \$30 million, which was Ontario's share of the softwood lumber burden, would go to train laid-off resource workers, the implication being, of course, that he was admitting the workers would be laid off because of the effect of the softwood lumber resolution.

The announcement in Sudbury that the \$30 million would be used exclusively for retraining made front page headlines in the Toronto Star, and that is the last we heard of that \$30 million from the softwood lumber tax, the last we heard of it until it was rolled out some three months later in the budget of the Treasurer, only it was not called a retraining program for laid-off resource workers now. It was called something that the New Democratic Party had adopted, in 1975 at least, called the northern Ontario heritage

fund. That was now to be the use to which the \$30 million was to be put.

Northerners were again given a promise. The first promise of \$30-million for retraining was broken within three months but, a year and a half ago, we were promised the \$30-million heritage fund. In order to get control out of Queen's Park, I presume because they did not trust the competence or advice of the northern Ontario minister they had at the time and did not feel that that particular northerner should have some say in the allocation of the northern Ontario heritage fund—by the way, the same premise, although then false, was used by the New Democrats in 1975 with respect to the northern Ontario heritage fund. In spite of the fact that there were northerners in cabinet who would make those decisions on the heritage fund, the myth that abounded through repetition was that northerners were not making those kinds of decisions even though they were in fact controlling the funds in the 1970s and early 1980s.

However, the myth was continued that the northerners in the Liberal cabinet could not, did not have the capacity or would not make any allocation decisions on the \$30 million from the northern Ontario heritage fund, but instead authority would be given to local councils and regional councils. With great fanfare and announcement, those councils were in fact appointed.

For them and for northerners, it has been over a year of total frustration with no criteria, no guidance and no assistance being given to these development councils, not only for the allocation of the \$30 million to specific projects but also with respect to the basic philosophy of the fund. Was it to top up existing government programs? Was it to fill in the gaps between government programs, particularly for northern Ontario? Was it to be an economic development fund only for new industrial investments and incentives and job creation?

The northern development councils have yet to hear—and I know this as a fact—what the philosophy of this government is and what the guidelines will be for the allocation of the northern Ontario heritage fund. It has now been over a year since it was announced—over a year. It is a disgraceful display of ineptitude and lack of commitment to northern Ontario from this Liberal government, an absolute disgrace. No wonder the development councils are frustrated. They have been getting no co-operation at all.

I challenge the Treasurer to stand up right now and tell us what bank account—in what northern

Ontario branch of what bank—that \$30 million is now deposited in. Tell us. Is it in a bank account in one of the banks in Sudbury? Is it in Thunder Bay? Has it been sitting there for the last year getting interest? Is it in Timmins or is it in North Bay? In what branch of what bank is this heritage fund that apparently belongs to northerners? The answer is that it is nothing more than a book entry and never has been. It is nothing more than a book entry for the Treasurer of Ontario. That is where the commitment has ended—with a book entry.

We are now into the second year of the northern Ontario heritage fund and we presume that before we vote on interim supply some time in the far-off future, we will have a commitment from the Treasurer of this province to the effect that the fund is \$60 million as of April 1, that the interest on the \$30 million has been paid to the fund and that the fund is located in northern Ontario and available for the northern development councils to allocate.

When that happens, then there will be a feeling in northern Ontario that the commitment in effect is being honoured and it is not just a word game or a shell game that the Treasurer is playing with no intention whatever of having that money ever spent for the benefit of the people of northern Ontario.

What has happened with the retraining program that the Premier spoke of in Sudbury some 14 months ago? There is no special training program for the laid-off resource workers in northern Ontario. Quite frankly, the economic problems have not revolved themselves around Timmins or Iroquois Falls or Black River-Matheson. The economic problems have revolved themselves around the smaller communities in Cochrane North, in Algoma and in Sudbury region.

Those problems are not being met. For the first time in memory, there is a net outflow of population from Cochrane North, evidence of the serious and growing economic problems. For the first time, we see population shifts out of smaller communities in northern Ontario as a direct consequence of the economic policies of this government and its lack of commitment to the small communities and the small resource industries of northern Ontario.

I take this opportunity, in interim supply, to ask the Treasurer to answer the questions that people from northern Ontario are asking. Where is the northern Ontario heritage fund? What bank is it in? What city in northern Ontario is that fund located in and when will the allocations be made?

1540

I followed with some interest the discussion yesterday on the Indian fishing agreement that the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) and the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) engaged in, and particularly the position of the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association. It was a rather interesting discussion because, yes, NOTOA's discussion paper is in general terms consistent with the policy I wished to have adopted with respect to Indian fishing rights in the province some four years ago.

Those members who were in the Legislature then will recall that the then member for Rainy River, one Patrick Reid, a Liberal-Labour member for the Liberal Party of Ontario, criticized the government for the provisions of that Indian fishing agreement. NOTOA at the time stated that it was opposed to this agreement and that it had not been consulted.

I just want to put on the record for any member of the Legislative Assembly who wants to see it that I still have in my possession NOTOA's maps of the lakes and rivers of northern Ontario on which in 1984 it agreed to exclusive allocation of some lakes and rivers and areas of lakes to the native people for fishing, and four weeks later denied any knowledge of any such maps or any such concurrence in exclusive allocation to the native people of this province. These events in 1983 and 1984 precipitated the destruction of the Indian fishing agreement.

I also still have in my possession, in spite of the disclaimers to the contrary, the clause-by-clause analysis of the Indian fishing agreement by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, which denied any specific detailed knowledge of the Indian fishing agreement four weeks after it did the clause-by-clause analysis of it. So I say history is coming full circle, and it will be interesting to see how the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) handles this matter.

There is only one possible reason for the decision by the Attorney General to regionalize the debates, discussions or negotiations on the Indian fishing agreements, only one reason to say there might be a blanket agreement but different specific agreements for different regions of the province: that is that the Attorney General will have different standards for Indian fishing rights in southern Ontario than he will allow in northern Ontario. That is the only reason we will now have a regionalization of this process, and people in northern Ontario see through the strategy of the Attorney General. That was one inclination we,

along with the federal Liberal government of the day, resisted in our negotiations in 1983-84.

I also have been following with interest the expenditure and waste of public funds in the Temagami park issue. In 1982-83, we engaged in a public consultation process that was unprecedented in the history of Ontario with respect to land use planning and parks development. We had 186 open houses at which over 10,000 Ontario residents attended. We received over 10,000 letters from individuals across the province with respect to the land use planning program. We had six regional forums in regional centres across the province at which over 5,000 people came out and demanded to be heard, and we had a two-day session at the Guild Inn in Scarborough with representatives of every interest group in the province.

In the course of those two days of deliberations, a province-wide determination was made with respect to park boundaries, the creation or noncreation of new parks and the uses that were to be permitted within the park boundaries. We came to a province-wide consensus and there were some winners and losers in each region of the province, but the net effect was that we had a framework province-wide which every single interest group, environmental or economic, was prepared to live with. That is why there was muted comment at best when we announced the creation of 155 new parks in Ontario at the end of that land use planning process.

Now, for reasons that relate directly to the intervention of the Premier's office, through advisers he has chosen to listen to and through the intervention of employees in the Ministry of the Environment, that fragile coalition, that understanding, that mixture of tradeoffs and accommodations, has been blown apart by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), who cannot control what is going on in his ministry and in the government when it comes to the use of public lands and public resources.

It has been blown apart because the Minister of Natural Resources is so busy saying that everything that happened before he got there was wrong and everything that has happened since he got there is so right that he does not want to look at the history of the issues and understand that indeed there was a lot of hard work put into some projects which he so lightly disassociates himself from now.

As soon as the minister picked one park candidate alone, the deal fell apart. As soon as he started tinkering with one tradeoff, the province-wide accommodation was over. Now we will be

in a position where the government of Ontario will not win in this issue. It will either accommodate the environmental interests, which are perceived in northern Ontario to be based in southern Ontario and in this great community, or it will accommodate the economic interests of local lumber producers and be seen by the environmentalists in southern Ontario as caving in to the greedy lumber companies. The minister is now in a position where he will not win the battle one way or the other.

All he had to do was take the time, look at the record, analyse the input of all the interest groups and say: "You had your chance. There was a province-wide accommodation made in which you participated, and we are not going to go back and rewrite it," and he was out of the issue.

Now we have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars, and will in the future, in consultant studies to go back and reinvent the wheel on this issue, when we had public hearings on this matter in Sudbury and in three open houses in local communities in that area. It is an entirely divisive waste of public funds that has really put residents of the Timiskaming region against one another, with some rather drastic consequences.

I say to the government that not only is this a waste of public money, to redo this exercise which was done in 1983, but it is also an incredible waste of valuable resources.

The Minister of Mines (Mr. Conway), who has now started to examine the consequences of what is going on in this parks project, knows full well that the Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater area has one of the highest undeveloped mineral potentials in the province. Because of that potential, in 1983 we said that under controlled circumstances, mineral exploration would be allowed to continue in that candidate park. The interest groups understood that. The deal was that mining exploration rights and mineral development rights would be put right in the regulation creating that park in 1983, in the same way it was in so many other park candidates in 1983 and 1984.

Now that development is in jeopardy. Now that mineral potential will lie undeveloped while the government and the Minister of Natural Resources spend the next two years trying to sort out the mess they have created by their indecision and lack of commitment to a process by a previous government which was well founded.

So I use this debate on interim supply to urge the government and the ministers of the government to get their act together, to do their research on the history of this project and come to the

same kind of accommodation that was made in 1983, which satisfied those same interest groups in that year as part of a province-wide commitment to multiple land use and to the creation of new parks in Ontario.

1550

I also wanted to take advantage of the debate on interim supply to deal with the use of \$5 million by the Ministry of Labour in establishing occupational health centres in Timmins—excuse me, in Toronto; it would never be Timmins—and Hamilton. The minister implied in his answers to the press after this announcement that Toronto and Hamilton were chosen because of the recommendations of the Ontario Federation of Labour and the United Steelworkers of America.

Not so. It was not the Ontario Federation of Labour and the Steelworkers who decided that it should go in Toronto and Hamilton. The Steelworkers and the Ontario Federation of Labour wanted the centres established. It was the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) who decided there would be only \$5 million that would go in only Toronto and Hamilton. For the Minister of Labour to somehow leave the implication with the people of Ontario that organized labour was behind this decision is unfair. Steelworkers' locals right across northern Ontario were quick to react to the efforts of the Minister of Labour in trying to say it was really their fault that they were going only to Toronto and Hamilton, because that is not true and not fair to them.

I want to say that I have heard that pilot project line before in my other incarnations. As far as I am concerned, there has been only one major, dominating occupational health issue raised in this Legislature in the past year and a half. The now Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) raised it before the last election. I have raised it on numerous occasions in the Legislature. Other members of the New Democratic Party have raised it. That has been the tragedy of lung cancer in underground gold miners in the hardrock mining communities of northern Ontario. That has been the one major issue.

We have 220 widows in Timmins, more widows in Kirkland Lake and in the Sudbury region, and all of their families. We have the Victims of Mining Environment organization having been established for the last two years; the issue raised time and time again in the Legislature; representatives of the Victims of Mining Environment travelling to Toronto by bus and being met by representatives of all three political parties; the then Minister of Labour, who is now the Minister of Consumer and Commercial

Relations (Mr. Wrye), coming to Timmins and meeting in the Steelworkers' hall with representatives of the Victims of Mining Environment and making a commitment that there would be action.

It was the dominating occupational health issue of 1986 and 1987, and we get criteria set by the Ministry of Labour and the Workers' Compensation Board based on statistics. We actually have threshold limits and criteria for allocation of pensions based on statistical analyses—not on medical evidence but on statistical analyses. If there ever was an issue that cried out for clear-cut medical research and determination, and medical standards to be set, it was this issue.

What was the reaction of the government? I will tell members what the reaction of the minister was. He told a CBC reporter after the proceedings, after question period last Wednesday, that the Ministry of Labour and the Workers' Compensation Board were doing medical research on this issue, and therefore an occupational health centre was not required in Timmins or in northeastern Ontario.

I challenge the Treasurer to tell me, in the name of the Minister of Labour, what medical studies are going on, because no widow, no miner, no Steelworkers' local has had any communication from the Workers' Compensation Board or the Ministry of Labour in any form whatsoever with respect to any medical study going on with respect to lung cancer in gold miners—none. Yet the excuse of the Minister of Labour for not having an occupational health centre in northern Ontario was that these studies were going on. Where are they? When were they set up? Who were they with? What medical records are they obtaining?

The fact of the matter is that there is none. No one in northern Ontario is aware of any such medical studies. The Minister of Labour does a disservice to the Workers' Compensation Board and his ministry by using that as a lame excuse to explain what he did not want to do.

The third excuse the Minister of Labour gave, and this was on the French CBC radio station on Thursday morning, was that there was no clear decision yet on the need for these centres in northern Ontario; they would be examining it.

The minister himself either did not understand what he was saying or contemplated things over the weekend, because last night in Timmins he said there was only \$5 million and these were the only two centres that were going to be established.

I guess what I am saying is that, once again, we have a repetition of Downsview, where you are going to have medical assessments done on lung cancer patients, workers; you are going to have lung disease assessments being done, as they were in the past in Downsview, but now they will be in a different location in downtown Toronto, and no capacity to make those assessments at all in northern Ontario. That is not acceptable.

An hon. member: What about your party?

Mr. Pope: As a matter of fact, it was our party that started the Muller study that led to the compensation decisions for these workers; and in 1979, as a back-bench member of the government, I stood up and revealed the existence of the Wigle study with the federal Department of National Health and Welfare that led to the then Minister of Labour, Dr. Elgie, announcing the Muller study, which led to the compensation. It was going nowhere until we instituted the Muller study.

Interjections

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the member please take his seat. The chair recognizes the member for Cochrane South. If he addresses his remarks to the chair, the members will listen to the member for Cochrane South.

Mr. Pope: I say to the member for Niagara South (Mr. Haggerty), it is going to be more than that, so he had better get used to it.

Listen to what the Minister of Labour says with respect to these centres in Toronto and Hamilton. "The primary goal of the new occupational health centres will be to contribute to the prevention of occupational disease by improving accuracy of diagnosis. In addition, we see them as strengthening and expanding the training programs for occupational health professionals at all levels.

"The centres will also provide independent assessment and screening of work-related diseases; improvement of worker and employer knowledge of work hazards, occupational diseases and preventive measure; research about the relationship between occupational diseases and the work environment; and, finally, clinical training of occupational health practitioners."

All of this with respect to the resource industries of the province located in the north will be run out of Toronto. We will have the same problems with these centres that we had with Downsview, which led the New Democratic Party and ourselves two years ago to call for a decentralized assessment system with northern

Ontario assessment capacity so that injured workers or sick workers would not have to travel at public expense to Toronto any longer to be assessed.

That is why we provided in 1983 for a capacity for lung disease research at the Timmins District Hospital, along with assessments of workers with those diseases at the Timmins District Hospital, something this government cancelled when it came to power. That is the answer, I say to the member, something his government cancelled when it came to power, along with cancelling the psychiatric beds at the Timmins District Hospital, along with delaying the construction of that hospital facility, along with deinstitutionalizing needed institutions for crippled children and the mentally retarded or mentally handicapped in Timmins and substituting in their places nothing.

That is the record of this government, and that is why I intend to speak at length on these issues and many others with respect to this motion for interim supply, because the record of this government and its commitments to northern Ontario are indeed a shocking indictment of saying one thing and doing another.

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Mr. Villeneuve: Lipservice.

Mr. Pope: It is a shocking indictment of lipservice to the people of northern Ontario, conning them through an election campaign in 1987 and then doing nothing. It is a litany of promising a reduction in gasoline prices in order to get into power and then—

Mr. Callahan: We understood you wouldn't do that if we didn't heckle.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. May I remind the member once more to address his remarks through the chair, please.

Mr. Pope: I do not think the member should be interfering, quite frankly.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: If you would observe the interjections that have taken place, you would not have to call the member to order.

The Deputy Speaker: I have also previously invited the members to listen to the member who has the floor, who is recognized by the chair; and I will indicate again the chair recognizes the member for Cochrane South and only the member for Cochrane South.

Mr. Pope: I believe I was in full flight with respect to the gasoline tax decrease that was promised by the Liberals in two successive elections, and then as soon as the election was

over, the Treasurer indicated he had no intention of doing it. I believe we were talking about a study on energy prices in northern Ontario that the government promised it would undertake, and as soon as the election was over it indicated it would not do it.

I believe we were talking about the \$100 tax rebate for every Ontarian who lived north of the French River, and then when the election was over the Treasurer said he was not going to do it. I believe we were talking about the promises of the Premier to give \$30 million to a retraining program for laid-off resource workers, and then two months later the Premier decided he was not going to do it.

I believe we were talking about a commitment of \$30 million in new money to a northern Ontario heritage fund to create new employment opportunities and new industries in northern Ontario, and a year later the Treasurer does not even have it allocated in a bank account in northern Ontario. I believe we were talking about a commitment to the wise multiple use of resources in northern Ontario that the Premier mouthed during an election campaign, and the first test comes in Temagami and the Premier does not live up to his word.

I believe we were talking about the priorities of this government when it comes to social and health services for the people of northern Ontario. We are now in worse shape in northern Ontario for specialty health care or basic health services, including anaesthetists in northwestern Ontario, than we have ever been in 20 years.

I believe we were talking about interim supply, as to whether or not we should vote to let this travesty directed towards the people of northern Ontario continue. I say I have no intention of voting for interim supply. Why would I let this continue? Why would I let the broken promises, the lack of action, the lack of job creation and the lack of sensitivity to the economic needs of northern Ontario continue? Why would I vote to allow the Treasurer to continue to mock the promises of the Liberal Party of Ontario for yet another year? Why would I allow anyone to be paid to carry on with those policies and that kind of behaviour directed towards northern Ontario?

We know what the priorities of this government are. They are not directed towards economic development in northern Ontario. They are going to stay down here and enjoy the good times in the Golden Horseshoe, right around the western end of Lake Ontario. They will stay down here and enjoy it. They will deal with

Sunday shopping and they will deal with Morgentaler, but they are not going to deal with basic economic issues that affect the very livelihood of workers and communities across northern Ontario. The message is clear. Do not expect me or anyone else who is listening to the people of northern Ontario to vote interim supply so that this can continue.

Mr. Fleet: I rise primarily to note disappointment that we did not have a more sterling presentation of some constructive comments from the opposition, from the third party. It was notable that there were comments and questions about funding for northern Ontario. If the member had paid attention in the House last week, he would have heard the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) ask these questions and get stimulating replies from the minister. The funding will be, and has been, coming forward for northern Ontario.

Perhaps the most scathing comment that could be made is about the hypocrisy of that kind of commentary from the Conservative Party. The suggestion now is spend on everything everywhere all at once to make up for the kinds of deficits that occurred all over this province. Yet at the same time, without wanting to admit that those deficits came from 42 years of mismanagement and, in some cases, capital funding starvation for things like hospitals, they now claim they want to have tax decreases. It is utter hypocrisy. Nobody believes it. It was exactly the sort of thing that took place in the election—billions of dollars of promises and at the same time not being honest intellectually with either the voters or perhaps even themselves about how that would be paid for. As I say again, it was rather a disappointing performance. We expected much better from the honourable member.

Mr. Callahan: I will not be crass, as my colleague was, and identify the factor of the absence from the House of the member who spoke on behalf of the third party. I would not mention that at all, but I would like to know whether he was around in the days when that castle was built up in northern Ontario—Minaki Lodge? As near as I could figure—and in those days I was an unelected person; I was striving to become a member of this august body—all I could see happening during those days was that a huge facility, Minaki Lodge, was bought. Not very much more than that was done for northern Ontario, and suddenly I have to sit here and listen to the member indicating how much should be done.

I wonder if he was quite as vocal in the days when he was sitting in the former Conservative government as a minister or as a member. I find it rather remarkable that he is saying as much now—saying very little really—and saying it very often in a way that is not very timely. I am sure that his constituents in his riding must certainly be well aware of that fact. This is not a problem that has arisen just recently. It has certainly been addressed in terms of promises, and those promises will be kept I am sure.

In the interim, I wonder what he goes back and tells his constituents in terms of what was done by his government. Northern Ontario is a unique experience, it is a unique situation, but it did not just come about in 1985. It was in existence for some considerable period of time.

Mr. Fleet: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The honourable member for Brampton South suggested that I had commented that the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) had not been here last week. In fairness to the member for Cochrane South, that was not what I indicated. I merely indicated he was not paying attention.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you for your point of information. Do other members want to make comments or questions? If not, will the member for Cochrane South wish to respond?

Mr. Pope: This is the best part. Let us start with Lord Fleet of Swansea, who always appears to get stimulated by his own ministers' answers. He may have been stimulated, but no one else was, because the minister may have talked but he said nothing. He promised no funding whatsoever in reply to the questions from the member for Sudbury East.

If the member is going to put that on the record, maybe he should read out exactly what the minister concerned said, because he made no promises, he offered no funding, there was no resolution of the issue that the member for Sudbury East raised. If that is the only example of recent commitment that the member can offer, I think he was the one who was not paying attention. Clearly, there was not help forthcoming from that minister.

Lord Fleet of Swansea has also indicated that we were talking about increases in spending at the same time that we were decrying the lack of a tax decrease or opposing tax increases. I think over the past two years we have tried to make clear our objections to the spending habits of this government.

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We have not commented on the Treasurer's new-found taste for French wines, but we have

commented on the fact that the very first act the government undertook when it took office was to increase the ceilings on the salaries of executive assistants to \$60,000. We have commented on the fact that they wasted \$17 million of the taxpayers' money on IDEA Corp. He remembers IDEA Corp. and all of the investigations that went on, the decisions that were made by his employees under his minister to his friends—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member's time is up.

Mr. Allen: I rise to participate in this debate on interim supply for the period April 16, 1988, through to June 30, 1988, in order to emphasize the problem I think we are in at this point in time in this Legislature, when we have gone for 11 months without having approved something of the order of \$9.5 billion of government spending. That seems to me not to be the way in which this House ought to be conducting its affairs, and those who are ordering our affairs obviously have not been operating as they should.

Of course, we have had an election in the interval and we have come back and had to get ourselves reorganized as parties in the House and I understand that, but when you come right down to it, we did remarkably little when we came back in this Legislature early last November and sat through into December. There was time at that point and there has been time since then when we should have been examining the expenditures of ministry after ministry.

I participated personally in some brief estimates for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini), but sitting on my other shoulder is a major ministry, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, which has a massive budget, immense responsibilities and a whole series of dimensions, so many that I still have not got my head around all of them by any means, which I should have been tackling and which this House should have been concerning itself with in order to keep the spending and the responsibilities of that minister under accountability and in a responsible track.

In rising, I want to make a few remarks about two or three items under two or three different ministries, specifically the Ministry of Culture and Communications, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and the Ministry of Labour.

Let me begin with the Ministry of Culture and Communications. It was about four years ago now that Robert Macaulay completed a very intensive investigation of the arts in Ontario and

came to some rather disturbing conclusions which we have heard remarkably little about in recent months and years.

He discovered, for example, just to take one of the more prominent statistics in that report, that in Ontario the government spending upon the performing arts was approximately half the level that it was for the other provinces across the country. What was evident was that governments of the day had been hiding in Ontario behind the large expenditures of the federal government on the arts and the presence of artistic organizations with their headquarters in Ontario, which gave the impression that Ontario itself, through its own Legislature, through its own public representatives, was somehow part of a vigorous art scene: supporting, developing, promoting.

While indeed significant investment was taking place, it was obviously of an order hardly comparable with that on a per capita basis across the country, and in fact there was the illusion given that, because these great arts organizations were here, funded by the federal government, somehow the glory and also some of the responsibility for that was being shared by Ontario.

A few items were announced in the wake of Mr. Macaulay's report. There was a little initiative in this direction and that, but everything seems to have been quite ignored, perhaps because we on our side have not asked the questions and perhaps because the minister has not been forthcoming in making as many announcements in the last year and a half as she did in the first six months in her post. For a while it almost seemed that one could not pass a day without another announcement, another statement, coming from the then Minister of Citizenship and Culture and, latterly, of Culture and Communications (Ms. Oddie Munro). But more recently there has been a drying up. Nobody has been dipping into the well. Nobody has been telling us what is going on in that ministry.

I submit to members that my experience, and I am sure their experience around the province, in our own constituencies, is that most of the artists we meet, most of the arts programs, are still having immense difficulty. We have heard recently of at least two orchestras in Ontario that have their backs to the wall. I know the artists that I find at the Dundas Valley School of Art, for example, are no better off than they were three, four or five years ago. They still are down there with the senior citizens of our country at the lowest income strata of the country. Yet they continue in that particular noble and highly

difficult profession that they have espoused, that of interpreting our world, their world to us, through their eyes, so that we can better appreciate it and enrich our own living as a consequence.

The first thing that I want to say is quite simply to ask the Minister of Culture and Communications, through you, Madam Speaker, to please give us an update on the responses to the Macaulay commission of 1984 and to give us an inventory of where we now stand, because recently I have read the requests of the new head of the Ontario Arts Council, who proposes that it would not be inappropriate for this government to double its spending through the arts council on the arts of Ontario. I submit that one would not be out of league with countries across the world that involve themselves in the promotion of the arts, with the single exception of the United States, where, of course, one has immense banks of private capital in foundations which have been devoted for long periods of time to the arts. That is a singular and unusual situation, and one that we do not have in this country. Even though there has been some significant improvement in business support of the arts, it is quite obvious that business support of the arts in Canada follows on government. Where government indicates that it is positive and constructive, investing heavily in the arts, then business follows and enriches and tops up. Unless government does that, it does not happen in this country to any significant extent.

That is the first point I want to make and the first ministry that I think needs some attention in a debate on interim supply at this point in time, given the lack of attention to it in recent months.

Second, to turn to a matter in the domain of community and social services, which arises out of some problems that exist in my own community of Hamilton, this has to do with what are commonly called rest homes. We call them lodging houses in our community, and in particular I want to refer to what we call the second-level lodging homes, which provide a regulated level of housing and some measure of care and oversight which is superior to the first-level of lodging house.

For years this party has been undertaking to get the government opposite, whether it was the previous government or this government, to engage itself in the regulation of rest homes in Ontario. Our own community in Hamilton, in the lack of such regulations, was the first community in Ontario to undertake, in 1980, to regulate what it calls second-level lodging homes. It did that in

the wake of the extensive deinstitutionalization of psychiatric patients from the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, a process, of course, that was happening in psychiatric hospital after psychiatric hospital around the province.

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We came to the conclusion that there was only one humane and proper way for a community to respond to that situation, and that was to make certain that the care, the residential situation those people found themselves in, was done under contract by responsible parties who had to live up to some standards in the lodging houses that were provided.

We now have some 700 people in those lodging houses. Those who operate them are finding it is extremely difficult to maintain them, to meet the level of standards, let alone the new standards our municipality wishes to see imposed in that area to improve their capacity and to make them more humane places for our disabled, for seniors, for many people who are increasingly, apparently, using them for health reasons, semi-invalids. At least 40 to 50 of those 700, it has been discovered, are using those institutions as though they were nursing homes. That, of course, is a reflection of another problem, the problem of adequate numbers of nursing home beds in our community.

The fact that we are lacking there is a reflection of yet another problem: namely, that the home-maker services I have been referring to in this House for the last few days are not extensive enough to look after sufficient numbers of people who could stay in their homes, that there could be more spaces in the nursing homes so that the people who are in the lodging houses getting nursing home care could be where they ought to be.

It sounds like I am back to the old rhyme *The House that Jack Built*, where you go on and on, one thing leads to another thing, leads to another thing, leads to another. But that is the way it is in this kind of backup situation, the series of critical problems we find evidence of and manifested when one focuses on this one particular target area: namely, the lodging house situation in our city and in other cities.

I gather only about half a dozen cities across the province have actually engaged in the regulation of those institutions. Windsor is another one, and it is having the same problem. The problem is that the regulations which the municipality wants to institute, on the one hand make such demands on the operators that they cannot maintain their support, their program,

their accommodation for the residents in question on the kind of income supports that they can get in turn from the ministry.

The question finally has to come back, both at the financial level and at the regulation level, to the province. Surely we are not saying that, as these kinds of institutions exist all across the province, they are any less deserving of universal and consistent regulation in this province than are the nursing homes or any other common institution of care.

In Hamilton just before the Christmas season we attempted to get the minister to sit down on several occasions to discuss this issue with us. Finally, on the heels of another press conference she wanted to hold in Hamilton itself for another reason, having to do with brain-damaged people and their treatment in Hamilton at the Chedoke centre, we had a brief conversation with her.

In spite of the urging of the regional chairman, the regional mayor, those in charge of social service programs in Hamilton and Alderman David Christopherson, who has been heading up a task force in our city on this subject, in spite of the pleading of all of them, the minister would give no commitment other than that she would look at the question; and that after our six years of pleading the case of regulation for rest homes in the province by the province. That is where we sit at this time with respect to regulation of nursing homes.

We thought that when the new government arrived and had got its new agenda together for seniors' care, we were finally going to break through. Mr. Van Horne said, "We also intend to regulate the quality of care in rest homes." It was not long before, on further questioning, that commitment began to disintegrate. Of course, since that time, Mr. Van Horne himself has disappeared from this chamber, and nothing more is said. So I want to renew in this debate and at this time the demand of our municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth that it is time this province undertook the regulation of rest homes in Ontario, provided adequate legislation to make that consistent across the province and provided adequate supports necessary to make it possible to live up to an appropriate set of regulations.

The third item I want to refer to brings me to something I suspect my colleague is going to follow me with—and that is this latest document of the Premier's Council—because I see he has got the same document sitting on the chair beside him, along with another one from the federal government on free trade. I presume we are in for

a major onslaught from my colleague from the Sault in that territory.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: It is an important document. We should all be talking about it.

Mr. Allen: Yes, I agree with the member, and that is why I want to say a few things about it.

I come from a community where we have experienced an ongoing problem with plant closures, with obsolescent industry, with industrialists and small entrepreneurs who have served in the past and served this province well but who none the less have found it difficult to access the resources to make it possible for them to update their industries, to keep abreast of the times, to use them as bases for development. We have a community full of people who are as entrepreneurial and innovative as any across the province, and yet in our community we do not have incubators or enterprise centres to nurture them along. In our community we do not have structures of community economic development, which is a whole dimension that is largely ignored in this report, by which we could tap that resource in a significant way.

We are quite aware in our community of the importance of large multinational corporations, which this document properly, at one level of our economy, aims at. Of course, it is important to have the Northern Telecoms. It is important for us to remember how the Northern Telecoms came on the scene. It certainly was not, as I am sure my friend from the Sault will tell us, via the free trade route. It was not via the free market economy unassisted that we got Northern Telecom. It was by the kind of route of government intervention and it was by the route of the provision of laboratories and facilities that made it possible for early exploration and research to take place by that corporation for it to make the kind of headway that it did.

It did it in a monopoly situation, which was recognized by government, in which all competitors were left to one side. It was not a free market situation under which Northern Telecom developed. It was not in the model of the free trade economy. It was in the model which I think the Premier's Council is trying to hint at and push us towards, and to that extent I am quite happy with this document.

It talks about the levels of research and development that we need in this country. It talks about the kind of education that we have to have in order to nurture the kind of economy and the kind of industry it is pointing to. It tells us about the kind of retraining that will have to take place. There is much in this document that I think we

want to busy ourselves with, in point of fact, in the coming months.

What I want to underscore once more is that in this document none the less, aiming as it does in the direction of creating a few major multinational corporations that are highly competitive in the world of high technology—I remember that even in medium technology our trade balance is not all that great; I think that low tech is the only area in which we have actually got a balance of trade—we are ignoring significantly and substantially another whole dimension of the economy that needs to be there, something you can call a third sector or whatever you want. It comes under the rubric of community economic development, it comes under the rubric of worker participation and involvement and it comes under the rubric of examining where, community by community, we have our strengths and where we can build on our strengths.

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It is quite obvious in most of our cities across this province that most of the development of local economies, somewhere in the order of 70 per cent in most cities, we are told by those who do these studies, is built upon the strength that is already there in the present community, not on any of the fancy stuff being talked about here—which, I repeat, is so necessary, but we have to complement that with the kind of economic development which is based upon ordinary folk in ordinary communities across this province.

We can do it, if we put the kind of structures in place that can harness and develop innovation at that level, that can harness entrepreneurship at that level and that can encourage groups of workers to move in upon obsolescent plants and turn them around by the commitment which develops out of owning and operating a factory themselves.

We had some experience of that in Hamilton around the Canadian Porcelain issue, and many members in this House will remember that. The only reason that undertaking failed to get off the ground as a worker-owned operation in Hamilton was not that the workers could not muster the business plan, not that they could not muster the money, not that they could not muster the expertise, not that they could not put the management in place; it came because the corporate establishment in Ontario decided that it should not happen.

I went to Peat Marwick, the great receiver operation, the great corporate adviser, in order to contest the position it was taking in the receiver-

ship of that institution. They sort of shrugged their shoulders and said, "Ha, what is ownership?" Give me a break. Here are apologists for the biggest owners that we have anywhere and they are telling me, who am trying to get a little piece of the action for some working people in Hamilton, "What is ownership?" One thing that ownership would have meant for the workers of that plant is that the plant would probably still be open today.

When a new set of owners came in from upstate New York and tried to gear it up for operation again, they went month after month, had breakage and breakage and spoilage and spoilage and could not get the thing together until finally the workers went to them and said: "Look, there's something wrong with the clay mix. It's the clay mix that's the problem. Why don't we send the clay out and get it analysed?"

They analysed the clay and got a reading on it, got the proper mix together for the kind of machinery they had, and once they ran the new clay through the machine, most of the breakage stopped. But it was too late already. That corporate enterprise had sunk \$10 million into the industry and was not prepared to go back, try to start all over again and get its act geared up with the new clay. There was the end of the story, the end of the road.

It brings me to another point I want to make with respect to the Premier's Council report, but also with respect to something we are attempting to do in Hamilton. We are a very innovative community in Hamilton; we always have been. Those members across the way who are from other places might find it quite interesting some day to read some of the firsts that Hamilton is responsible for. We have also been a community that has worked together remarkably well in a number of respects. That is one reason some of our social services in the city are as they are and one reason many developments take place in Hamilton more easily than perhaps in some other centres.

One of the aspects that is rather slighted, I think, in the Premier's Council report is the whole question of labour adjustment and industrial orientation for working people who are displaced by technological change. We certainly heard that story in our community for a long time: the parade of closed plants, whether it was Allen Industries or Consolidated Bathurst, whether it was the Inglis plant, whether it was, more recently, Firestone, or a whole host of others that came in between all of those, numbering at least a couple of dozen or more in recent years. We have

had major problems of labour adjustment, of displaced working people.

We know what the free trade agreement, the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal, will do to our community: it will only exaggerate the phenomenon we have had to live with, too sadly, for these many years.

It is also true that what the Premier's Council proposes is going to have a similar impact, especially if there is none of the community economic development style of development that I have talked about going on alongside it, because in making the Ontario economy dramatically more competitive there is going to be a lot of pressure put on some obsolescent industries in our midst. We will continue, under the pressure of the Premier's Council, to see plant closures.

While it is true that in the long haul those initiatives may generate more employment, in the meantime the problem of the displaced worker remains. When he is in his late 40s, and in his 50s in particular, of course he may never be absorbed back into the workforce. It is important for us to have programs in place on an ongoing basis that make his adjustment, his reorientation, his access to new training programs a lively and available opportunity for him and for her.

There are some programs in place. There is the provincial Transitions program. There is money that comes from the provincial and federal governments to the unemployed help centres on a very inadequate basis; some of them have had to close lately because of that inadequacy. There are federal moneys that attend, for example, the operations that have been very active in the Firestone case, where there has been a very impressive committee put in place, a group of persons to work directly with the displaced workers to keep prodding them and prodding them, and moving them and moving them, to give them not only resumé-writing skills and job-search skills, but also to keep pushing them out there into the market and to make certain that they get their best foot forward.

While it is not, in sum, the fullest model I could describe in terms of labour adjustment, none the less they have had a remarkable impact in getting most of those workers working again, and in jobs that are pretty respectable.

What we have had to put up with in the more recent past are fairly quick, one-shot efforts with single workers that might get them back at work but which very often see them slide down the economic scale. What is impressive about both the Firestone undertaking, and even more impressive the labour adjustment program under-

taken by Local 105 at the Stelco steel mill for its workers, is that almost without exception they have been able to either put those workers back into training and therefore into upgraded skills and into better niches in the labour market, or they have been directly able to find them jobs in new factories, new locations that are at least as well paying, if not better paying, than they had before.

When you do labour adjustment and industrial orientation correctly, you get results for the working people involved. When you get results for the working people involved, they do not have to look upon industrial change and technological change as a threat to their lives, as a threat to their income and as a threat to their families. They can look upon it as another opportunity, but only if there are institutions there that are available to move them through that process of transition and adjustment.

That may seem like speaking the obvious, but take our community, for example. The only effective examples to date of work of that kind have been either with respect to large industries or with respect to industries where there was an immediate and dramatic crisis. Then something has been done. But what of the small industry where a few men and a few women are laid off? What of an industry where there is not an aggressive management? What of an industry where there is not an aggressive union attempting to look out for their welfare, helping them access whatever programs are available?

Those workers fall by the wayside, wake up perhaps a few months later to find that they are not going to find work, perhaps go to the Citizens' Action Unemployed Help Centre, which does a great job with individuals, finding them some kind of work, but which is not at all appropriate for a larger-scale, community-wide operation.

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What we have done in Hamilton recently is call together some very extensive consultation about the people who have been at work in the Firestone case, people who have been at work in the Stelco situation and people who have gained experience in the labour adjustment field, whether at Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology or the Canada Employment and Immigration centre, and ask them, "What is it that we need?"

The conclusion they have been coming to is that we need a community-based, community-operated, labour adjustment, industrial orientation centre on an ongoing base, well known in the

community, so that anyone in any labour situation who faces job loss or plant closure can go there and experience at least a three-to-four-week intensive support program that helps cope with the psychological dimensions of the adjustment, works with the families if necessary, points out to them what skills are appropriate for the market at the present time, even tries to identify areas beyond the critical skilled trades list that the federal government produces, helps the worker identify where his skills fit into that pattern of available skills and the training that is available for him and then takes all those next steps to get him plugged in and reactivated with a positive attitude towards his future.

In our community, we have found that when you do that, it works. I submit to the members that unless the government and the ministries, particularly those appropriately related to the initiatives the Premier's Council is addressing—the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, for example, and the Ministry of Labour—unless they put their heads together and provide for this province, community by community, the support that is necessary for centres of that kind, the great perspectives and hopes that open up with something like the Premier's Council will simply be a bitter taste in the mouths of too many workers in our communities.

It seems to me there are many items that we should have been raising as critical issues over these past few months, ministry by ministry in estimates, in the area of supply, because every one of those proposals that I have put forward requires, obviously, some response, some new resources, some critical thinking. Unless we do that on a regular basis in estimates, where we examine regularly ministry operations and get hands on with the minister and his staff around proposals of one kind or another, like this, which other members are also putting forward, we are not doing our job in this place.

That is why having this debate today is, in one sense, while helpful, very much after the fact and rather unfortunate because we should have been plumbing the expenditure patterns of this government month in and month out in recent months. We should not have the kind of backlog of \$9.6 billion in Orders and Notices awaiting approval from this House at this time. We should have been able to approve all that earlier rather than later, as we are doing today.

With those remarks, I want to take my seat and hope the appropriate ministers have been, if not listening and watching, at least being reported to about the things being put on the table today, not

only by me but also by my colleagues in both opposition parties and those from the other side who may be participating in this debate.

Mr. Pope: I found that a rather interesting speech, and the references to the free trade agreement and his particular perspective on it, which he also put forward at the estimates of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, I believe it was last year. I was present when he was participating in that debate and look forward to his ongoing contribution and also the contribution of the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom).

Just in passing, the baron of Brampton's only recollection was of Minaki Lodge, but I think he should go back and read the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development document of 1980, and he will see forest management agreements, 17 of them executed before 1984. He will see the pulp and paper modernization program, which helped pulp and paper mills across northern Ontario. He will see the industrial mineral program, which led to talc development and many other industrial mineral developments across northern Ontario.

He will see the gold mill program, with three specific gold mill facilities being constructed in communities across northern Ontario. He will see the aeromagnetic survey program, with millions of dollars being spent in many regions of northern Ontario and leading to the development, I might add, of at least five new mines in northern Ontario, and he will see the core storage library program which assisted prospectors and developers.

All these initiatives were undertaken by the previous administration. All this is by way of saying that unlike the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) for the New Democratic Party, the baron of Brampton really does not know what he is talking about when it comes to replying in the House.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Does any other honourable member wish to make any comments or ask any questions of the member who has just spoken? If not, would the honourable member wish to have two minutes in which to reply to the words directed towards him?

Mr. Allen: This should be rather fun. The member, in all truth, makes a point that I could well have made myself. I mean I would want to say that when one reads a document like this from the Premier's Council, the language in it is not entirely new.

One can think of a number of documents which foreshadowed it in a number of respects,

and certainly the thinking of the previous government around the technology centres that were established, for example, adumbrated in many respects some of what is showing up here in the Premier's Council. I guess that is what makes some of us a little bit nervous and worried. That there was not more built on that base leads us to wonder how much will be built on this one.

But I am happy that the member referred to that because I think we have to remember that very few things are born absolutely new and fresh in this Legislature, let alone anywhere else, and that most proposals that arrive in our Legislature come trailing clouds of some kind or other that come from other regimes and other pasts, and I think we would perhaps be better to be a bit more humble about some of these things sometimes and to acknowledge it rather than to fight and stew over the fact that somebody may have thought something up a little bit earlier than we did.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I appreciate the opportunity to be able to speak on the interim supply motion from the Treasurer of the province. This is a part of a process of approval of budgeting which is a very complicated one and hard to understand, I would suspect, for people who are watching us in this debate.

The interim supply provides the ongoing funds for the Treasurer to continue to fund the work of the province, and in this case the bills are coming due on April 16 and he requires additional approval to cover the costs of the government until the period of June 30.

This is a necessary process and one—probably because we have such a complex and convoluted budget process—that results in our approving the final budget only at the end of our fiscal year rather than approving a budget at the start of the year, which is what we will be working towards.

In the case of the budget that the Treasurer is going to be presenting next week, on April 20, as we understand, that budget in fact will not be passed at least until the end of this calendar year and we will be working under a budget which in fact has not received the authority of the Legislature.

The process of interim supply gives us an occasion on a periodic basis, typically every quarter, to review the spending of the government in all areas and to consider the direction in which the government is going in terms of its economic planning, its raising of tax revenues and the spending of the various ministries.

I hope that in his budget next week, the Treasurer will be looking very seriously at many of the recommendations that have been made by members during this debate over the last several days, and as well will be looking seriously at the recommendations that have come forward from the committee on which I sit, the standing committee on finance and economic affairs.

That committee has made a series of recommendations that have been endorsed by a consensus of the members of all three parties. It makes recommendations to the Treasurer in terms of where some additional areas of spending priority should be established and in terms of our tax system, of the urgent need to improve the tax fairness of our whole tax system here in Ontario.

One of the most important recommendations in that regard is that the province move back to a system whereby it provided 60 per cent of the education spending in our various communities. Property taxes are placing a larger and larger burden on our communities and individuals are finding—I know in the case of Sault Ste. Marie—that education taxes today are as high as the city taxes.

That is because this government, as well as, in its last years, the Conservative government, embarked on a systematic program of reducing educational funding to our school boards. As a result, we are now in a position where the province is funding less than 45 per cent of the cost of our school systems while approximately a decade ago the figure was about 60 per cent on a consistent basis. There have been strong demands that the government return to a 60 per cent funding basis for education in order to relieve the burden on property taxpayers and this should be acted upon by the Treasurer in the coming budget.

In the longer run, I certainly hope we will offload a further burden from property taxpayers because of the inherently regressive nature we find with the property tax system. Education taxes should be provided basically from the provincial revenues, not from property taxes, and the same should apply to a host of services, social services particularly, which are mandated by the provincial government and must be funded by local communities.

At the same time, we have a very serious issue of tax reform that is currently in process from the federal government. We know that the Treasurer is in consultation with the federal government and the various other treasurers of the various provinces across this country in terms of restructuring the income tax system, and most

important, sales tax systems, on both the federal and provincial scenes. It is essential that we work for tax fairness in these areas.

In the area of income taxes, over the years we have had a continual process whereby the income tax burden has been put, to a greater and greater extent, on middle-class, middle-income Canadians and taken away from high-income Canadians who have access to the tremendous number of tax loopholes, exclusions and deductions that are available to them but not to average working Canadians.

At the same time, we have had a shifting of the tax burden from corporations to individuals. If one went back to the late 1950s or early 1960s, one would find that the tax burden was roughly the same between corporations and individuals. Today, individual income taxes are roughly triple the level of corporate taxes.

At the same time, the sales tax burden has increased considerably, a tax that is inherently unfair, placing a burden upon consumers, a burden that is not distributed in terms of the ability to pay but rather in terms of the spending those consumers have for everyday items.

It is vitally important that Ontario maintain its tax independence. While we have extreme concerns about the direction the federal government may take in terms of imposition of taxes on consumers, Ontario must maintain its right to establish its own tax system, both in terms of sales taxes and potentially, in the future, in terms of an income tax here in Ontario. We must have that right in order to maintain our ability to insist that our taxes, which are paying for the services we provide as a provincial government, are as progressive as possible.

At this time, I would like to turn away from the issue of taxes and take a look at what is happening in our economy here in Ontario. There can be no doubt that as a whole the economy is strong and buoyant and that the prospects, at least in the near term, are very good.

The unemployment rate as a total, I understand, is very close to five per cent, the lowest figure in at least a decade. However, that is when one looks at the whole picture. When one looks at the province in terms of various regions, one sees a very different story. Areas of the north in particular are facing unemployment rates at least double the rates in the Golden Horseshoe and in Metropolitan Toronto.

While times are good in the north relative to what they have been in the past several years, there is much that could be done by the province to restructure and ensure a growing, more

buoyant economy in the years to come. This applies as well to other areas of the province. Certainly rural Ontario has its difficulties. Eastern Ontario has difficulties in particular communities.

The province could not be in a better position than it is today, in terms of the overall level of its economy and the overall tax base that it has, to provide assistance in diversifying the economy and in spreading out the benefits of these good times, so that other areas besides Toronto become beneficiaries of increased job opportunities and higher income opportunities for the workers of our province. The time is now to put the investments in place, particularly in northern Ontario, to ensure the long-term future of that region.

We have a population in northern Ontario which is not growing. Our young people do not have the kinds of opportunities they need to give them the incentive to stay in the north. When you go to a school and ask them where they expect to live when they grow up, so many of our young people are going into areas and occupations that do not see opportunities available in their own home communities. In fact, it is not uncommon to find most of the students in a high school class actually believing that they will not be able to live in their own community when they reach the stage in their lives when they are working full time in what they hope will be the kind of productive employment they want to be in.

We have to provide those opportunities, and to do that we need a much more balanced economy across northern Ontario. One of the areas that needs particular attention is transportation. Our transportation infrastructure has not been improved in quite a number of years. Certainly, when it comes to highways, we do not have the kinds of highways they have in southern Ontario. Living in Sault Ste. Marie, I know from experience that we do not have the kinds of highways they have right across the border in Michigan. They have tremendous freeways through the state of Michigan right up to Sault Ste. Marie, but we have nothing comparable anywhere in northern Ontario.

Our Trans-Canada Highway should be an example of what a highway system should be right across this country. It is the transportation link that connects our country, but it does not have the status the name implies.

1700

I hope that this government and this Treasurer will put the funding in place to start a significant program, a phased approach, to the widening,

the four-laning, of the Trans-Canada Highway right across northern Ontario. This is a recommendation that has been made many times by our party. I am very pleased that this recommendation was endorsed by the standing committee on finance and economic affairs and that the members of that committee from all three parties supported an initiative and recommended to the Treasurer that he start a phased program of highway construction to improve the Trans-Canada.

We have to get the federal government involved, but we cannot continue to use as an excuse the lack of an agreement between the province and the federal government on this issue. We have to see that the province acts and starts the program now. I hope that the province can meet the kind of timetable that has been recommended by communities across northern Ontario, and as well by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, that the Trans-Canada be four-laned over the next 10 years.

As well, within transportation, we have concerns about air transport. The province is in the process of negotiating the divestment of the services of norOntair. We have seen in communities such as my own, Sault Ste. Marie, a deterioration of air transport services as Air Canada has pulled its jets out of Sault Ste. Marie. Canadian Pacific—now called Canadian Airlines—and Air Canada appear to be dividing up the market going into the major communities in northern Ontario and not providing competitive services against each other. We now see the province threatening to withdraw its services from the much smaller communities. It is a very valuable service that norOntair provides to more than 20 communities across the north.

In the area of rail transport, we have serious concerns with the economic difficulties that are being faced by smaller railways such as the Algoma Central Railway from Sault Ste. Marie. The ACR is in the process of attempting to divest itself, potentially, of its rail line. That could have grave consequences for my community and other communities across northern Ontario. The rail line on its own does not appear to be financially viable.

They have asked for subsidies for their freight service and they were granted considerable subsidies by both the provincial and federal governments last year for that service. On an ongoing basis, they have been provided with federal subsidies for their passenger service along their whole line. As well, they are saying their only other major service in terms of rail

transport, the Agawa Canyon tour train, the major tourist attraction in the Sault and Algoma region, is one for which the equipment is deteriorating; they are asking for assistance in that area.

We have prospects of rail lines in trouble. We know that CP Rail has problems with its off-line routes, such as the one between Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, which are of very questionable financial health. There is considerable concern in my community about the possibility of that rail line, and potentially other, smaller rail lines in the north, being closed by CP.

There are lots of areas where the province has to look at providing the transportation infrastructure that is needed to make the north competitive. Our geography is a very expansive one. We cover a huge area of relatively sparse population. To be able to be competitive and develop new industry, and to support the existing industry that is there, we have to have a good transportation system, one that is competitive with any other transportation system in the world.

In the area of energy costs, we face higher transportation costs because of distances. Our cost of gasoline is an issue I have talked about many times in this Legislature, but the government has steadfastly refused to take any action with regard to the fact that gasoline costs are so much higher in northern Ontario than in southern Ontario.

This puts us at a tremendous economic disadvantage in terms of attracting new industry and in terms of being able to compete with the industries we have. As well, it is a cost penalty to the consumers in the north, and these kinds of energy penalties apply not just to the cost of gasoline or fuel oil for our cars and vehicles, but also when it comes to other energy sources.

The province, by its regulatory body, could be looking at incentives in terms of natural gas prices, and most particularly with Ontario Hydro. We could be using Ontario Hydro as a development tool in the north by providing and ensuring that preferred energy rates are used in the north as an incentive to develop a new, strong and diversified economy throughout northern Ontario.

When it comes to infrastructure investment, the province has to look to the north. One has to look beyond transportation and energy, and I would like to talk next about education facilities.

Our facilities simply do not compare with what is being provided in other areas of the province. The north does not get its share of spending on educational facilities. Even on a population

basis, we should be getting something in the order of eight or nine per cent of the funding for educational facilities.

When it comes to universities in the north, we are not getting even half of that. We have two major institutions in the north, Lakehead University and Laurentian University of Sudbury, each of which gets \$20 million or \$25 million per year in funding. Meanwhile, we have institutions in southern Ontario where communities like Kingston with Queen's University get more funding in a year than all the institutions in northern Ontario combined. Many of the eight or nine major institutions in southern Ontario receive more funding than all of the north.

These are tremendous economic tools for those communities and one certainly wants to promote them and ensure that they become stronger in the communities they are in. However, the north does not have access to the research facilities and the educational opportunities that people in the south have. There is no compensation for students who have to come south to get their education, to get the kinds of programs that they want and are not available to them in northern Ontario.

When it comes to the area of research and development, which the province likes to talk about—the Premier and his Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) like to promote themselves as great futurists, looking at where technology is going—the major initiative from the technology fund to date has been the centres of excellence. This is pouring millions of dollars into specialized research programs at the universities in southern Ontario.

Out of all the projects that were announced in the centres of excellence, some seven projects involving, in each case, several universities—a sum total of 20 university programs were included in this—absolutely none of them went to any of the schools in northern Ontario. We are not attempting, as a province, to build up centres of excellence in the north, an area that has been such an important region of economic wealth creation in this province and the major supplier of resources to the province, and not only to the province but also to the rest of North America.

Our resources have been taken out of the ground and cut down in our forests and shipped elsewhere for processing and the creation of wealth in other communities. It is time that some of that was returned to the north so that we can have the kind of diversified economy that other regions have.

Yesterday, we had the report of the Premier's Council issued, *Competing in the New Global Economy*. There are some good points to this report but there are also some deficiencies. The report does address the need for what is essentially an industrial strategy, a strategy for how we can develop new and more productive industry for the future of this province. However, the report does not address the issues nearly enough, virtually not at all, in terms of how they affect people. The lack of focus on people is the most fundamental problem with this report.

1710

The priority in terms of our economic future has to be to provide people with the skills they require so they can enjoy productive employment opportunities in the areas they want to pursue. That is not assured through the implementation of this report. One has to go beyond this report and look at what is happening in some other countries to encourage a full labour market.

I had the opportunity in the fall to spend some time in Sweden and Norway. They are examples of how a labour market can be managed, how government, workers and business can get together to ensure that full employment is maintained on an ongoing basis. The unemployment rate in Sweden was under two per cent, approximately 1.9 per cent, at that time. In Norway the unemployment rate was 1.4 per cent; in fact, there were twice as many job vacancies as there were unemployed in Norway. They are crying for more workers. They have the job opportunities. They are developing strong economies. Their industries are growing.

Those countries have a resource base very similar to ours, particularly Sweden. Norway does have tremendous oil resources. Sweden is a country with a similar climate, similar geography and a very strong dependence on mining and forestry in terms of its basic sectors. However, they have been able to use those resources to develop products which have a much higher value than we do here in Ontario.

In terms of our major strong industries, we have the talk in this report about the importance of our nation's traded industries, and there can be no doubt about the importance to the economy of those industries which are our major exporters, which provide us in a competitive world with trade surpluses with other countries. In Ontario, those are basically the resource industries and the auto industry. The major exception, as noted in the report, is Northern Telecom, which has developed into a major telecommunications corporation. We do not have very many high-

technology companies which are competitive on a world scale and of world-scale size.

I agree with the report that we have to do things to develop more of them. However, I also think we have to build on our strength, and our strength is the resources we have, the skills of the people we have. To a large degree, that involves utilizing and further utilizing the resources that are coming out of northern Ontario.

We can put more value added into those resources. We can get more jobs out of those resources. We can do things to ensure that those resources are processed here rather than shipped out at low rates as raw materials or commodity-type goods to be upgraded into finished manufactured products in the United States or elsewhere around the world. The result of our shipping of raw materials, in many cases, is that we import back the finished product and we pay for the jobs that are being created elsewhere. So many of those jobs could be produced here if we put in place the infrastructure—as I have talked about earlier—the education, the training and the ideas that are needed to ensure that we are on the forefront of product development related to our natural strengths, and that involves the resources that are coming out of our ground and our forests in the north.

We do need an industrial strategy for the future of this province. The report from the Premier's Council gives an indication, a number of very good recommendations, but a report is just a report. What we need is action from this government. The government initially announced this report in the speech from the throne dated April 22, 1986, in which the Premier committed himself "to steer Ontario into the forefront of economic leadership and technological innovation." That was a commitment the Premier made. Two years later, we get our first major report from the Premier's Council on this issue, and the Premier says in his response to this report, "This is only the beginning of a process." After two years, the best he can say is that we are at the beginning of a process.

We need action to ensure the future of this province. We do not need recommendations, more studies, more reports, more consultation, more consensus-building. We need a government that is committed to take the steps that are necessary to build a strong economy that will benefit people right across this province.

I hope that the Treasurer will be taking action in the budget next week to include major announcements of initiatives related to these recommendations, major initiatives that will

have benefits for the people right across this province, most particularly a restructuring of the economy of northern Ontario. The tangible steps this province will have to take have to be announced in this budget to come. I hope we will not delay for another year action on redressing the problems that are being faced by the people of the north.

I would like to thank the Speaker for being so attentive and I look forward to seeing the Treasurer's response to these issues next week.

Mr. Wildman: I congratulate my colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie for pointing out the differences in the economic situation in northern Ontario as opposed to southern Ontario.

I know many people think there is a boom going on in our economy, but regretfully, they ignore the fact that we have a net out-migration of population in northern Ontario. Our population is going down and that is because there are fewer and fewer jobs available for young people in northern Ontario and they are having to seek employment in southern Ontario. Many of them might like to do that, but many also are being forced to do that and would prefer to stay in the north.

Also, it is interesting to note that in northern Ontario, while the economy of some communities such as Sault Ste. Marie has improved since the recession of 1982, many smaller communities continue to experience stagnation. Many people are moving from those communities, if not to southern Ontario, to the larger communities like Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Sudbury.

1720

It is not acceptable, in my view, for southern Ontario members to sit complacently by and say everything is fine, or, for that matter, for northern Ontario members representing larger urban centres such as Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie or Thunder Bay to say everything is fine when in fact they are benefiting partly because of the problems experienced in the smaller communities.

I congratulate my colleague for putting this matter before the House. I regret that the Treasurer has not seen fit to use the funds he has received from the export tax on softwood lumber to assist the lumber-mill towns that have experienced problems as a result of that. Nor has the government yet come up with anything like the criteria needed to use the so-called heritage fund to develop the north. After a year, we still do not have any progress in that area, and I do not

understand how the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) can justify that.

Mr. Callahan: I think everyone in this House speaks with affection for the north because it truly is a different experience and it is one that requires, quite obviously, a very sensitive solution.

I was interested when the last speaker for the third party was speaking about the things this government has not done.

The Deputy Speaker: Is the member in his seat?

Mr. Callahan: I beg your pardon, sir.

Interjections.

Mr. Callahan: I thought I just got it for my birthday.

In any event, it was interesting to listen to the member of the third party, who spoke just a short time ago, talking about the things that have not been done. Yet, recognizing the sensitivity of the northern problem and how to deal with it, I suggest to him, and I think he recognizes this, that this is the first time in a considerable period of time that any attention has been directed towards trying to solve that problem. As a new member coming down here in 1985, the thing that impressed me was the fact that in looking at a topographical map out here, the roads just do not go up. That is the most essential item you have to open up any frontier.

It is interesting when you find that people who are in the dynamite profession have to come to a community college down here to receive that training. It is interesting that there is not a medical school in the north, which would be important in order to keep doctors in the north and to make the north grow.

I think the things that are being told to the member by this government and the plans that are being made are not just going to be rushed into. They are going to be dealt with sensitively, and he is going to see things done in the north that have never been done before.

Mr. Mackenzie: Maybe we will get a few more jails in the north. Then the member could move there himself, as well.

It is unfortunate the Treasurer did not stay around for the entire speech by my colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie, because I think there was some good and valuable and useful economic and financial information in his comments. It is unfortunate that the Treasurer, a little bit grumpy, did not like the length of the debate here today.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I give particular thanks for the three comments. The member for Algoma brings up the point of the ripoff of the lumber industry with the duty that was imposed on it, the commitment of this government to return those fees to the communities that were affected. This government is currently holding something in the order of \$27 million of revenues from those lumber duties which it has not returned to those communities. In the meantime, we have hundreds of employees at lumber mills out of work in the north as a result. The Ontario heritage fund, as well a major commitment from this government, has not been addressed at all.

The member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan) suggests that this government is paying attention to the north for the first time. I am not sure that the attention it is paying to the north is any different from the attention it has received in the previous 42 years from the Conservative government. There are no fundamental differences in this government's approach compared to that of the previous government.

The diversification of the economy has not changed across northern Ontario. We are facing serious problems in terms of lack of funding for education. Currently, when it comes to health funding, there is absolutely a crisis situation in so many communities, including my own, where the funds are just not there to continue to provide the health services that people expect and are given as an automatic right down here in southern Ontario but that are not available to people in the north.

We have to do things to increase the funding to ensure that we have the transportation systems, as the member had mentioned. There is a lot that this government has to do for the north and it is time for the government to start acting.

Mr. Charlton: I too am somewhat sorry that the Treasurer left us this afternoon, because I wanted to address to him directly the comments I wanted to start out with.

The first issue I wish to deal with is the GO Transit system, specifically GO trains into Hamilton. It was approximately a year ago that I stood in this House and made a private member's statement on the 20th anniversary of our efforts to get full GO Transit train service into the city of Hamilton. We still have three trains a day, 20 years later, as opposed to a full commuter service between the city of Toronto and Hamilton.

Those members who have ever spent any time on the Queen Elizabeth Way between Hamilton and Toronto will understand why those of us from Hamilton who have responsibilities in the

city of Toronto have been fighting for a long time to have that service expanded. The QEW, over the 11 years I have been here, has gone from a congested highway into probably coming close to rating the ranking as the single longest parking lot in the world. For those of us who happen to commute on that highway, including those who use public transit services like the GO buses, the time that is consumed in that commuting has become inordinate and quite bothersome. It adds four hours to our day every day.

There was a recent announcement by the GO Transit board that finally, after 21 years, they have approved the plans, which will cost about \$64 million, for the doubling of the GO Transit train service into the city of Hamilton. Unfortunately, at the same time as they made their announcement, they also explained to those of us in the public that the Treasurer of this province has not yet committed any funds to this project which they, as a board, have approved.

Their time line is to try to have that doubled service into the city of Hamilton by 1990, which is only two years away. But again, in the announcement they had to say clearly and bluntly that they do not have the funds to meet that deadline, that time line, and that the ball is in the Treasurer's court. That is why I wanted to address my comments directly to the Treasurer this afternoon, a week in advance of his budget, because for those of us in this House from Hamilton—a couple of those members being on the government side—and for the thousands of commuters who spend their time out there on that highway every day, it would be extremely pleasurable and uplifting if, next Wednesday in the Treasurer's budget, he could have a first instalment of funds to see this project come to fruition in the next two years.

Mr. Charlton: It is important and I will look forward to the Treasurer's comments next Wednesday.

1730

Mr. Wildman: Don't count on it.

Mr. Charlton: I heard somebody say, "Don't count on it." After 21 years of waiting, I am not sure that I should, but I certainly thought it was appropriate to pass those comments along to the Treasurer before he comes in with his budget next week.

Second, I would like to move to a topic which is also fondly remembered by the Treasurer of this province, and again my comments are directed to him not in his role as the Treasurer but in his role as, up until the last election, the Minister of Revenue and in his role in opposition

over many years in relation to the issue of property tax reform.

I have been here for 11 years now. For eight and a half of those 11 years the Treasurer was in opposition, and for two of those 11 years the Treasurer was also the Minister of Revenue and responsible for the property tax program in Ontario. For the eight and a half years he spent in opposition, he, along with a number of his colleagues in the present government, were on the one hand very critical of the approach the former Conservative government took to the question of property tax reform, especially after 1975 right up until 1985 and the change of government, in terms of its backing off on the issue of province-wide, universal, uniform, fair property tax reform.

What we saw the Conservatives start in 1978 and 1979 was a program of local option, a term we have heard used quite frequently in recent days in relation to the Sunday working and Sunday shopping issue. It is a process where the government has allowed local municipalities to decide whether or not they wish to go to a modified form of market value assessment. That local option has created for some municipalities very serious problems. That local option, as members are well aware, has been the reason we have had no property tax reform of any kind in Metropolitan Toronto, where the system is probably among the worst of any municipality, set of municipalities or regional municipality in Ontario. But this local option approach has also created what is being referred to in the Sunday shopping debate as the inequities between areas, regions and individual municipalities in this province. For me it is the prime example of one of the reasons the local option approach to Sunday shopping is so ridiculous.

There are, there is no question, any number of items which are appropriate for a local option. Municipalities should decide to what extent, for example, they are going to put in place local services, hard services. The people of a community and the council in that community should be working together to make those kinds of decisions, and every municipality does not have to deal with those decisions in the same way, because they do not have an impact on others in the next community on either side and the communities down the road.

But local options are not appropriate where we want to create a fair standard in the province, and I go back to the comments I was making about property tax reform. By going the local option route on property tax reform, what the former

Conservative government did, and what this government and this Treasurer in his former incarnation as Minister of Revenue also have done, is to ensure that there can never be property tax equity in Ontario.

Even those municipalities that chose to opt into this form of modified market value property tax reform have not achieved property tax reform, except within themselves. They have not achieved property tax reform in relation to the municipality right next to them. If, as a municipality, they happen to be part of a region or part of a county where there are some county services provided, they end up still with assessment bases which are not comparable and which create problems for one municipality or the other in terms of those burdens that get bumped up to the senior level, the county level or the regional level in the case of the 13 regions we have in this province.

If the members think about the debate that has gone on here in Metro, the one that has had the most publicity over the course of the last three, four or even five years now, I guess, that is what that battle has been about: the ad hoc approach to property tax reform and the impact it will have, one municipality in Metro versus another. There are some winners and there are some losers, so there will always be inequities when it is left to the local option. Who is it who suffers? It is the property taxpayer in the city of Toronto, the city of York, North York, Scarborough or wherever the positive impacts from property tax reform would result.

But those inequities are built into this local option approach to what we all said 15 years ago had to be a province-wide and fair approach to property tax equity in Ontario. We wanted to get everybody on to the same base so that everybody was, in some fashion, comparable and the assessments were, in some fashion, relative to those next door.

I guess that leads me into some comments on the Sunday shopping issue and this whole question of the local option. What is it that the local option in relation to Sunday shopping or Sunday working really means? It is a nice catchphrase, a lovely catchphrase. It sounds good, democratic. Local option: let the local people decide whether they want to be open on Sundays or not. But what will be the limits that this government will impose on the local option?

The new member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham) raised a very legitimate question earlier today in relation to day care, for example. Is this government, is this Treasurer, going to

provide additional day care funding for additional day care subsidies for those women who get stuck with working on Sundays as a result of the local option? Day care centres do not have any local option. The government is giving the council a local option to say, "Yes, this municipality is open for retail business on Sunday," but the day care centres do not get the local option to say: "We have been given the money. We will now open the day care centres on Sunday to look after those kids."

What about the boards of education? I was down at a meeting in Stratford two weeks ago on the issue of local shopping. There was one gentleman who got up in the audience and asked a very legitimate question. He said: "I work in the retail industry. My wife works in the retail industry. We both work in the retail industry. My kids are in school five days a week. They are with their grandmother on Saturday. The only day my wife and I have to spend with our kids is Sunday. Now, I presume that if I am forced to work on Sunday, I am going to get some other day off. I am not going to work seven days a week and neither is my wife, but my kids are not going to be home with me on my day off. Is this government going to provide the funds to the boards of education across the province so that they can open their schools on Sunday so that the kids can have the day off on the same day that their parents are home and get to spend that time with their parents?"

Is the government going to provide the funding for seven days a week? Of course not. We have not heard any announcements from the Treasurer.

1740

Mr. Black: Do you want us to tell the teachers' federations you are advocating seven days a week for teachers?

Mr. Charlton: What I am asking is and what I am telling the member is that what the government is talking about is not a real local option.

The government has not provided a real local option. It has not provided anything other than stores will be open. It has not made provision for any of the other options that have to go with that to make it work, socially, to make it work in terms of labour, to make it work in terms of families.

What is this real local option everybody keeps talking about? All the government has granted is a local option to create problems because it has not provided any of the answers for the ancillary services that go with the work day.

An hon member: Chaos.

Mr. Charlton: Of course there is, and all the government is doing is putting a big magnifying glass to the problem. We have day care problems on the regular work days. We have funding problems in our educational system on Monday to Friday. We have problems with capital stock in the educational system in terms of school facilities, hundreds and thousands of portables that we have heard people raise questions about in here, problems that have not been resolved five days a week, never mind seven days a week. So all the government is going to do is put a big magnifying glass to the problems we have failed to address.

Sunday shopping or Sunday working is not just an issue of retail business. It is an issue of families. It is an issue of labour and labour legislation. It is an issue of small business and small business entrepreneurs and operators.

Would you, Mr. Speaker, advocate that any other form of our labour legislation should be left to local option? Should the Employment Standards Act be a local option? The Retail Business Holidays Act is a piece of labour legislation. It is not something for local option any more than property tax reform is something for local option. The kinds of things that are for local option are those things that become ancillary, extra.

We also have spent a number of years in this House listening to debates around Ontario Hydro and the need to make Ontario Hydro accountable to this Legislature, to the government even, to the Minister of Energy even, but more specifically to the people of Ontario, the people who own Ontario Hydro. And last fall, just after the election, we heard a number of comments from the new Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong) about how he was extremely concerned about the level of Hydro's debt at \$24 billion and how in October he was seriously considering looking at amending the Power Corporation Act with the intent of having the government take over responsibility for Ontario Hydro's financial structure.

That was a pretty interesting proposal on the part of the minister. It was pretty innovative, pretty radical.

Do members recall how long it took for that whole thing to fall apart? Do members recall the questions I raised here in the House?

In October the minister took that innovative, in fact even radical position in terms of his concern about the \$24-billion debt of Ontario Hydro. Six weeks later, after meeting for an hour and a half with officials from Ontario Hydro, the minister stood here in the House in response to a question

which I raised and said, "Well, as a matter of fact, I met with Ontario Hydro just this morning, and they have alleviated all my concerns about their debt." Just like that, all of the innovative talk, all of the tough hard look at what it is we have to do to deal with the question of Ontario Hydro and accountability; gone in one swoop. Just—gone.

We also had some discussion here in the House before Christmas, and during the one week that we sat in February, about the study which Hydro tabled with the government which was tabled here in the House in December, Hydro's demand-supply planning strategy. That is a planning document which, when the final decisions are made on that document, will lock this province in for the next 25 years. That is a planning document which, when the final decisions are made on the options that are set out in that document, will not only lock this province in for the next 25 years, but also, if the wrong decisions are made, could spell economic catastrophe for this province.

The select committee of two years ago had recommended that when the second phase of that planning study was completed, the study that was tabled in December, that study should be referred to the Ontario Energy Board for a full, open public hearing. The select committee unanimously supported that recommendation. The government members on that committee supported the recommendation. The member for Niagara South was one of the members who sat on that committee and signed that report, and all of us unanimously recommended that study be referred to the OMB.

We did that for some, I think, very good and legitimate reasons. We made that recommendation, first, because we had just been through major hearings with Ontario Hydro and all of us, as we always do, found it very difficult to wade through the mountains of material which Ontario Hydro dumped on the committee. It is also difficult for a member of the Legislature, who has his duties here in the House and his duties in the committee and his duties in his constituency, to have the day-to-day expertise that is required to pick apart some pretty technical stuff coming out of the giant across the street.

Mr. Haggerty: The natural gas industry has to go by the rules.

Mr. Charlton: That is right.

It was our feeling, first of all, that probably what was required was a three- to four-month hearing before the energy board; that the select committee would never get three or four months

of sitting time to do that kind of in-depth review. Select committees around here fight for four, five or six weeks of hearing time, as members well know. Select committees do not get granted 16 weeks of sitting time to do a proper job on a project like that.

Also, select committees get a budget and select committees can hire some expertise—one consultant, perhaps two, maybe a lawyer—but that is about the extent of the expertise which a select committee has the capability of taking on under the budgets they get.

As well, the Ontario Energy Board, I guess over the 14 years of its life since 1974, has developed a fairly significant degree of expertise in terms of Hydro matters. It not only has a lot of expertise right on staff but it also has a set of consultants which it uses on a regular basis, and those consultants have also developed expertise in specific areas in which they have been asked to do studies for the OEB over the years. So it was the feeling of the select committee that in fact the OEB was the best place to look at this document, a document which could have horrendous economic consequences down the road for Ontario, to do the job properly and thoroughly.

1750

The government said: "No, we are not going to refer the matter to the Ontario Energy Board. We are going to reconstitute the select committee and we are going to have the select committee receive a referral on the demand-supply planning strategy." We have a government which set up a select committee two years ago, a government that is now ignoring the recommendations of that all-party committee and asking a reconstituted select committee to do what the select committee said it thought it was not the most appropriate body to do.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, for those of us who are on that committee, what kind of feeling are you left with when you get put in a situation like that? You get left with a feeling that it does not matter what we do this time either; the recommendations will be ignored and put on a shelf somewhere, in spite of the fact that Liberal members now hold a substantial majority on that committee.

Mr. Black: They didn't do the job properly before.

Mr. Charlton: The job got done the last time.

At any rate, after all of that, just three or four short weeks ago we had a major announcement from Ontario Hydro, which most of us saw in the media and most of us probably took a little time to read, that it has now discovered that the reactor

core tubes in reactors 3 and 4 at Pickering are in trouble. Those two reactors are going to be shut down next year and the following year and totally retubed 10 years ahead of schedule.

I want to put that in context. In August 1983, Ontario Hydro had a tube failure in reactor 2 at Pickering. They investigated the tubes in reactor 2 and reactor 1, which were the two oldest reactors in service at the Pickering nuclear power station. As a result of that investigation, those two reactors were shut down and retubed. It took four years and \$950 million, almost \$1 billion, for two reactors that were only 10 and 12 years old, respectively, and were not supposed to need retubing until after the 20th year in service.

Hydro said: "It is a problem and we are going to have to fix it, but not to worry; the rest of the units at Pickering and all eight of the reactors at Bruce do not have the same tubes. They have a new tube. They have a better tube."

The tubes that failed in units 1 and 2 at Pickering were tubes made of an alloy called Zircaloy 2. The tubes in the rest of Hydro's reactors are a new alloy called zirconium-niobium. Hydro assured us in no uncertain terms that it would not have the same problems with the new alloy tubes.

Their announcement of three or four weeks ago that they are now going to have to retube reactors 3 and 4 at Pickering at a cost of \$800 million, is an admission that what they told us in 1983 was just a dream on the part of Ontario Hydro.

What they told us in 1983 was that there would not be the same problem with the other tubes. Now we have the same problem with the other tubes. Now Hydro is taking the position: "We didn't expect to find this and we are going to have to retube these two reactors 10 years ahead of schedule, but we can still solve the problem. The new tubes we put in will last for 30 years so we will still only have to retube those reactors once in their lifetime."

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. There are many private conversations.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I object strongly to all the noise being made by the members of the third party.

Mr. Charlton: What the announcement of three weeks ago means is that Hydro is going to have to retube every one of its Candu reactors 10 to 12 years in advance of what was originally expected. That means every one of those reactors is likely going to have to be retubed twice in its lifetime instead of once; roughly \$1 billion for every two, or \$500 million apiece.

We are talking about 16 reactors before we even start thinking about the Darlington nuclear station, which has not even come into service yet, but it is going to be in the same boat because it is the same stuff. Just for the 16 reactors that are already in service in Ontario, we are looking at a cost of \$7 billion to \$8 billion that nobody is talking about.

What is even more interesting is that in the study to which I was referring earlier, the study which the select committee of 1986 said should be referred to the Ontario Energy Board, where it had the expertise to really pick it apart, Hydro is still using the one-retubing-in-a-lifetime scenario to generate the costs of operating a nuclear station over its lifetime, the cost it uses to compare to the other alternatives, whether hydraulic, coal, conservation, cogeneration, small hydro and so on. That study and Hydro are still using numbers which are just totally out to lunch, totally irrelevant in 1988, based on what they now know.

There are a few of the Liberal members and a few of the Tory members who were on the former

select committee who understand the importance of this issue for not only Hydro's future—again, the former member for Erie, now the member for Niagara South, is shaking his head.

There are a few members in this House who understand the real importance of this issue. Unfortunately, most do not, in terms of the potential impact for the future of this province. Yet we have heard no comment and no response from the government at all to the announcement of three weeks ago. We have not even heard the government say it is going to have this group or that group, this committee, the OEB, anybody, look at the ramifications of this for the future direction we are going to take in this province. It would seem that nobody in this government, with the exception of a handful of members who do not happen to be in the cabinet, really understands the importance of this issue to the province's future.

On motion by Mr. Charlton, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breough, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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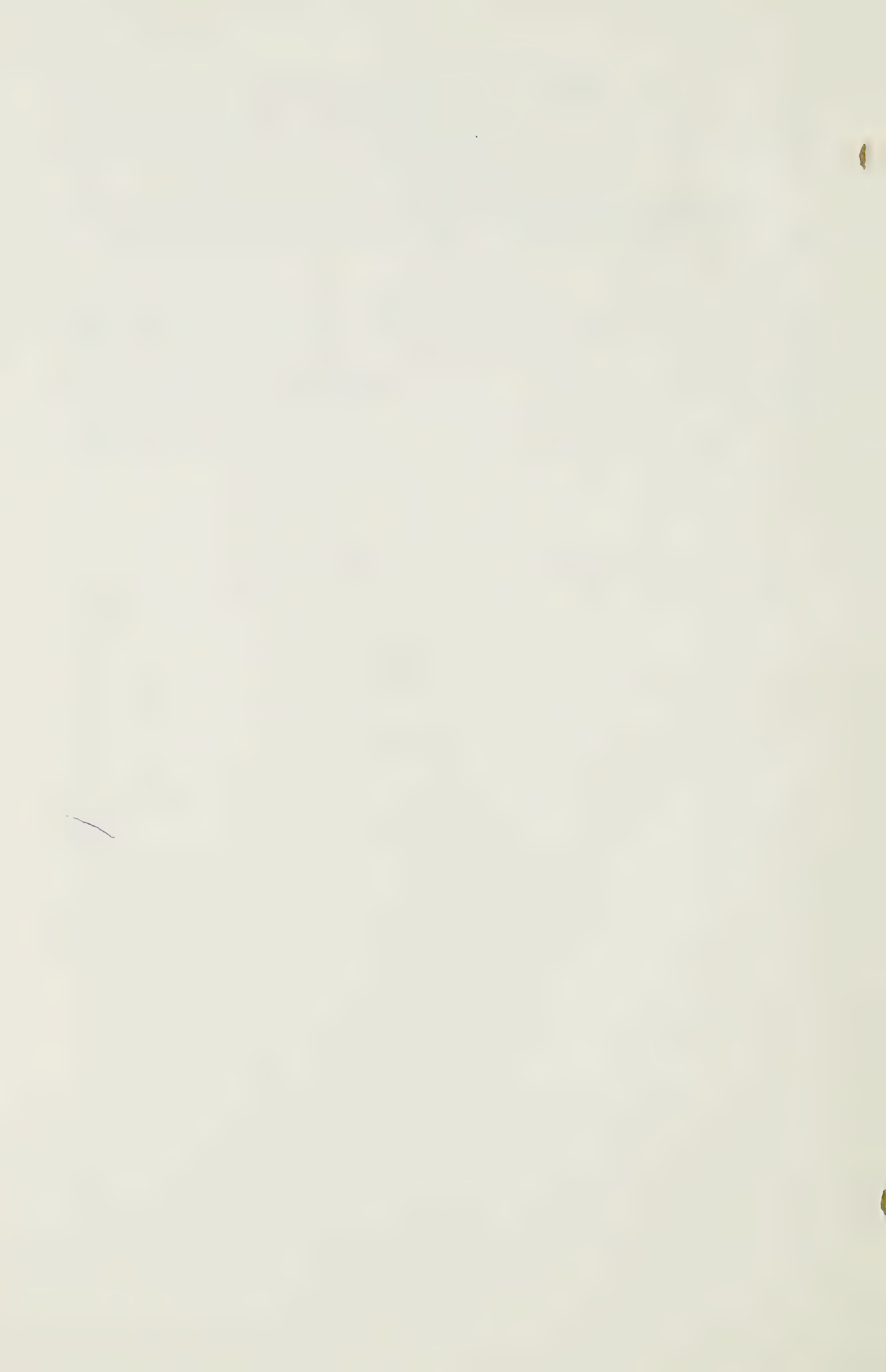
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Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament
Wednesday, April 13, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, April 13, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

VAISAKHI

Mr. Philip: Today we celebrate Vaisakhi. Vaisakhi celebrations go as far back as 1699. It is the New Year's Day for the Sikh cultural calendar. Vaisakhi is, in a sense, the origin of the Sikh nation. Governments must recognize the right of Sikhs to their five Ks.

Sikhs have emigrated throughout the world more than any other visible minority. In each country, they are noted for their hard work, their peacefulness and their charity towards anyone less fortunate than themselves. These important personal attributes are found in their strong religious beliefs. As one of the great religions of the world, Sikhism stresses equality of man, the fatherhood of God, to live by earnest earning, to share with those less fortunate, tolerance of others and an ecumenical acceptance of universal values irrespective of their source.

We are fortunate as Canadians that 250,000 Sikhs have chosen Canada as their home. They have contributed to the growth of our country and their presence has greatly enriched our lives.

My colleagues and I in the New Democratic caucus and our families would like to say to our many friends in the Sikh community congratulations on the occasion of Vaisakhi and happy new year.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. McCague: On Monday of this week, the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) stood in this House and announced Local Government Week. He said: "Local Government Week...provides local government bodies...with an opportunity to tell their constituents about the important role played by local governments in Ontario."

There is an irony and also a strong message in the sequence of events this week as it relates to local government. On Monday, the minister spoke about the importance of local government. Tomorrow, according to the press reports, the provincial government intends to introduce

legislation forcing municipalities to contend with the Sunday shopping issue, this in spite of the fact that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has clearly stated they do not want that responsibility.

This government's attitude towards local government and local councils was made even more obvious by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) in his remarks yesterday. When asked what his government intended to do about the need for increased day care services in London if Sunday shopping goes through, the Premier said: "...the city council in London has had one of the worst records in the province in providing child care....The member will want...to persuade city council of its responsibility in providing child care."

The irony in all this obvious. If it wants a scapegoat, the government puts it back on the municipalities.

VAISAKHI

Mr. Ruprecht: Every April 13 since 1699, Sikhs throughout the world celebrate Vaisakhi, the New Year's Day in the Sikh cultural calendar. Vaisakhi is the origin and birthday of the Sikh faith as practised today.

To celebrate this historic event, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Minister of Citizenship (Mr. Phillips) unveiled the symbolic Sikh marker in front of the Legislature yesterday.

Joining us in the House to mark this special occasion are distinguished members of the Sikh Canadian community: Dr. Gurcharan Jauhal, Jagtar Singh Mann, Manohar Singh Bal, president of the Metropolitan Sikh council, and Mohinder Singh Chahal.

A strong community of 250,000 Sikhs depicts a bright fabric in the multicultural mosaic in Canada. Sikhs came to Canada at the turn of the century and are found in every part of our country. They have contributed to the growth and development of Canada and continue to play a vital role in all walks of life.

That is why it gives me great pleasure to extend our heartiest congratulations and best wishes, on behalf of the Premier and my colleagues, as we recognize April 13 as Ontario

Sikh Community Day. We commend its observance to the people of our province.

LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Morin-Strom: Concerns about health care services across the north continue to escalate, nowhere more so than in Sault Ste. Marie.

Home care services have deteriorated over the past three weeks since 15 home care co-ordinators were forced to go on strike at Home Health Care-Algoma. More than 1,000 Algoma residents currently in care are affected, while acute medical beds in our hospitals are being held up because patients cannot be assessed and services arranged for their safe discharge back to their own homes.

The home care program is 100 per cent funded by the Ministry of Health, but the ministry appears to abdicate any responsibility for reaching a settlement in this dispute. Registered health care nurses in the Sault want to know, does the Minister of Health (Ms. Caplan) not have an obligation to provide funds to pay her employees fairly and to direct the board of the Algoma District Health Unit to settle this dispute without delay?

I am forwarding to the minister directly the written concerns of registered nurses in the Sault. For the sake of the sick, the infirm and the elderly throughout Algoma, I ask the minister to investigate this serious situation and to intervene to ensure a quick and fair settlement of this dispute.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. Jackson: On March 25, the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) announced with much fanfare that he was increasing operational grants to our schools. What we saw was really a clever shell game. Most of the money is allocated on a per-pupil basis, so when enrolment rises in Ontario, so do the grants. The so-called increase of \$50 million was the result not of government largess, but rather enrolment figures which exceeded projections.

It is appropriate, on a day when students from the United Nations Club of Aldershot High School in the riding of Burlington South are here in the gallery, to look at the general legislative grant just received by their board, the Halton Board of Education.

As a result of Liberal underfunding, local taxes in Halton region will rise by an average of \$96, while the elementary panel receives a modest increase of \$241,000 and the secondary

panel will lose \$1.8 million. This year in Halton region, the share of educational costs borne by the provincial government will be 32.4 per cent. That is a drop of nine per cent since the Liberals took office and is just over half of their election promise of 60 per cent.

While taxpayers will bear the cost of this shortfall, in the end it is the students like those in the gallery today who will pay the price of broken Liberal promises in education.

VISIT TO QUEBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Daigeler: Together with representatives from all three parties, I had the privilege from February 24 to 26 to visit the Quebec National Assembly. On behalf of the six MPPs who travelled to Quebec City, I wish to congratulate the Ministry responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs for having organized this trip.

I specifically wish to thank Don Stevenson, our Ontario representative in Quebec, for the extraordinary care he took to introduce us to the political climate of our neighbouring province. At a time when strong forces exist across Canada to focus on one language group at the expense of the other, it is imperative to develop personal contacts between political and other leaders from different provinces, especially from Ontario and Quebec.

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I encourage the government and this House to repeat this initiative. Continued and enhanced exchanges between parliamentarians and other groups will help us build a stronger Canada, a country proud of its rich cultural heritage and willing to promote this treasure unique among nations.

VAISAKHI

Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, as a way of courtesy, could I perhaps ask for a few moments extra to add my comments with regard to Vaisakhi day with regard to the Sikh community?

Mr. Speaker: There has been a request. Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

Mr. Sterling: I would like to associate my comment with both the members of the Liberal government and the New Democratic Party in celebrating the occasion of Vaisakhi day, which is the commemorative of the founding of the Sikh faith. I speak with some personal knowledge of this, having had the very great opportunity of visiting the Golden Temple in Amritsar and meeting the first minister of the Punjab in 1979.

I understand the importance of the Sikh faith to their people. I understand the tremendous contribution the Sikh people have made to the Ontario multicultural community. My party wishes to wish them many more successes in our country. We wish the strengthening of their presence here in our province and we give them our good wishes for the future.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I am delighted to take this opportunity to announce the allocation of \$28 million over this fiscal year to help build and upgrade recreation facilities across the province.

The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation will fund more than 500 projects for the promotion of sport, recreation and fitness opportunities for all Ontarians. Municipalities across the province will enjoy new recreation facilities, while our commitment to existing facilities is reinforced with these funds. In keeping with my ministry's goal to encourage all Ontarians to take part in recreation, the allocation of these funds takes into account the special needs of groups such as older adults and the physically challenged.

These funds are more than an investment in the bricks and mortar of our great Ontario recreation system. They are a sound investment in the continuing good health of our province. Recreation is at the heart of our community life. These grants will help keep that heart beating strong.

HOUSING ON GOVERNMENT LAND

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am pleased to take this opportunity to inform members of the provincial framework for the development of government lands. This approach will apply to the Housing First sites to be developed throughout the province.

To assist in the creation of housing for low and moderate income earners, the province is prepared to lease or sell land as required, site by site, at below market value. This represents a significant departure from past practice.

Beyond shelter, we have a number of objectives related to our Housing First lands. We will work to satisfy social, economic and urban design objectives. Furthermore, we are committed to the creation of integrated housing communities sensitive to surrounding neighbourhoods.

To ensure that these objectives are met, project by project, the province will work closely with municipalities and the local communities. We will seek out supporters of affordable housing goals to work together with us as local advocates

for these projects. We will move responsibly and with sensitivity but also expeditiously and with determination.

The Housing First policy has already produced sites for over 2,500 homes in the past fiscal year, including close to 1,200 for low and moderate income earners.

We all have a role to play in addressing housing needs, the people of Ontario, the private sector and all levels of government. I ask all members for their support in these enterprises. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Patten: As my colleague, the Minister of Housing, has just said, the throne speech of last spring announced that a Housing First policy would be applied to all provincially owned lands surplus to government needs, to create more housing for low and moderate income earners.

Provincially owned surplus lands not appropriate for affordable housing are to be sold and the proceeds applied to a housing development fund. As a result of my ministry's ongoing review of the provincially owned surplus lands, I am pleased to announce today a series of sites in Metropolitan Toronto to be made available for the Housing First policy.

The sites are as follows: in Etobicoke, a 10-acre site at Burnamthorpe Road and the East Mall; also in Etobicoke, in conjunction with Humber College, a 50-acre site, which includes 32 acres of the former Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital grounds; in North York, a 24-acre site at Keele Street and Falstaff Avenue; in Scarborough, a nine-acre site at Ellesmere Road and McCowan Road; and in the city of Toronto, a half-acre site at 70 Lombard Street.

It is the government's intention to proceed now with the negotiations and planning work, so that the development can begin on these identified sites. It is our expectation that, with the full co-operation of all parties, construction could begin within an 18-month period on some of these sites.

We believe these sites will permit the development of up to 2,000 housing units. For understandable reasons, details of provincial proposals for individual sites will be a matter of negotiations with the municipalities and others immediately involved.

I expect the government to be in a position shortly to state our plans for specific sites. Nevertheless, I am pleased to announce that requests for a proposal will be issued today for a project consultant to develop site plans for the

former Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital site in Etobicoke.

Last week I had a productive and congenial meeting with Metro Chairman Dennis Flynn, Etobicoke Mayor Bruce Sinclair and the chairman and president of Humber College. We agreed on this next step. The consultant will be asked to determine optimum land uses on some 50 acres, including lands on an adjacent lake-shore site owned by Humber College.

This will take several factors into account. Heritage buildings on the site will be preserved. Existing health services will be retained. We also want to examine the potential of this site for mixed housing development, in accordance with the province's Housing First policy.

Developing surplus provincial lands is just one part of the solution to the current housing situation, but it is, I believe, an important demonstration of our recognition of the need and our political will to act.

We intend to make further announcements regarding other sites throughout the province, including additional sites within and around Metropolitan Toronto. My colleague the Minister of Housing and I will be approaching other government owners of land to see whether they as well can contribute more to the Housing First solutions. Thank you.

DISASTER RELIEF

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I am announcing today that our government has declared the flooded Goulais River valley a provincial disaster area and will provide financial help through the Ontario disaster relief assistance program.

Because of the location of this northern community, cabinet has approved an enriched funding formula to provide up to \$4 for each \$1 raised locally by the disaster relief committee.

Last Saturday I had the opportunity, along with my colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), to visit the Goulais River area north of Sault Ste. Marie. Ice jams in several locations along the river caused extensive flooding, the worst in many years. Fortunately, there was no loss of life or serious injury. The water has since receded and those evacuated have returned to their homes.

I know the minister would join me to commend the Goulais volunteer fire and emergency services for its excellent rescue work during the flood. The local staff of my ministry and that of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Provincial Police and many local agencies such as the Red Cross are also to be

commended for their excellent work during the emergency.

1350

The Ontario disaster relief assistance program helps alleviate the hardships suffered in cases such as this when a natural calamity occurs. My ministry administers this program, but the real work is done by the people in the communities who have suffered. They set up a disaster relief committee and spearhead the local fund-raising. I am confident that all members of this House will support the efforts of the residents of Goulais River, as they recoup their regrettable losses.

HOURS OF WORK

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: In January 1986, the then Minister of Labour announced the appointment of the Task Force on Hours of Work and Overtime to study and make recommendations on all issues relating to permissible hours of work and overtime under the Employment Standards Act.

Phase 1 of the report contained the task force's major recommendations and it was tabled in the Legislature last June. Since that time, extensive consultations have taken place between the Ministry of Labour and a wide range of interested groups in other government ministries.

Today I am pleased to table phase 2 of the report submitted to me by Dr. Arthur Donner, chairperson of that task force. His final report focuses on special treatment for construction workers, truckers, agricultural workers and domestics. It also examines exemptions and special treatment in the broader context. It is my understanding that, owing to an inadvertent error in my ministry, some copies have already been distributed and I regret that error.

Last June the government introduced legislation to enhance the basic working conditions of domestics. That legislation, which came into effect October 1, 1987, entitled full-time domestics and nannies with special training in child care to standard overtime pay. It also required that they be paid the provincial minimum hourly rate, a benefit that was also extended to part-time domestics.

The minimum pay and overtime provisions and all other rights of live-in domestics are also provided by the legislation to full-time and live-in sitters. This was done to end situations in which ordinary domestics were being classified as sitters by some employers wishing to avoid paying overtime and benefits.

This final phase of the Donner report will enable us to more fully examine the issue of

overtime as it affects domestics and the other special groups that were the subject of the study. Specifically, this report contains an analysis of the issues and offers 20 recommendations. Let me share some of the highlights with members.

First of all, the report suggests the establishment of a small group within the Ministry of Labour to review, with public consultations, the exemptions and special-treatment cases every five years with priority given to the review of the 26 industry permits.

It also calls for an updating of the definition of "emergency," which may be excluded from excess hours worked. In such cases, the task force recommends that the information supporting the decision to exclude such hours be shared with unions and other affected workers upon request. Among the other recommendations are the following.

Donner recommends that agricultural workers be eligible for paid vacations and paid public holidays. It recommends full-time live-in and live-out domestics and full-time live-in sitters should have the right to refuse work after 50 hours per week.

It recommends that the provincial government should approach Ottawa to seek changes in the income tax provisions to make child care expenses fully deductible. It recommends that maximum hours for truckers should be set in the National Safety Code and enforced by the Ministry of Transportation.

It finally recommends that the overtime trigger for local cartage drivers and highway transport should be 50 hours, while for private fleets it should be 40 hours. It suggests that a driver should have the right to refuse work at the point the overtime trigger comes into effect. It recommends the establishment of a uniform 50-hour standard work week for overtime premium pay in the roadbuilding and sewer and watermain sectors, with a right to refuse after 50 hours; and finally, the right of other employees in the construction industry to refuse work after a standard 40-hour week.

This report will become a part of the ongoing consultations arising out of the first report and will contribute greatly to the review of the Employment Standards Act that is presently under way by the ministry.

Mr. B. Rae: You guys make snails look good.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Before concluding—and if I can have the attention of the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae) for a moment—I would like to place on the record the government's apprecia-

tion of the thorough job done by Dr. Donner and his task force colleagues, Fitz Allison, Judith Andrew, Sam Gindin and William Stetson. I feel confident that the consultations arising out of these reports will prove extremely meaningful in assisting the ministry to bring forward major revisions to the Employment Standards Act.

RESPONSES

HOUSING ON GOVERNMENT LAND

Mr. Breagh: I cannot tell the members how happy I am to warmly endorse and agree with the statements made by the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten) today, just as I endorsed it when we said it during the last election campaign and when they said it during the last election campaign and 10 years ago when a guy named Claude Bennett was Minister of Housing for this group over here.

We have all said that and we all agree with that, so I think it is useful to take a look at some of the specifics. There are those around who are cynical enough that they will actually do that. They will look at where the problem is most difficult in all of Ontario. They will say it is in the city of Toronto, and they will examine very carefully what the government has done today: half an acre of land on Lombard Street.

They will look at the fine print, where it says they will get leases or sell the property just under market value, and they will remember that yesterday this government set the record, \$160,000 for a 40-foot lot in Malvern, and today it says it is going to turn to others in the private and public community and give them a break—\$159,095.

HOURS OF WORK

Mr. Mackenzie: I cannot even be as kind as that to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) with the report he has just filed in this House. Just as a little aside, I wonder why he will not consider agricultural workers under the Employment Standards Act, as we have asked for years. It would do more to protect them and give them the coverage they do not yet have than he has done in his recommendation or in anything he has done.

What has the minister done in terms of the Stelco workers or some of the other more obvious plant examples in terms of overtime? There is absolutely nothing here that deals with the problem that resulted in the committee he set up in the first place. Instead, he has now set up another small interim committee in the ministry

to take a look at the industrial permits. It is a pile of crap.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. Wildman: I want to congratulate the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) for his successful fight with the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) to persuade the Treasurer that we should provide \$4 for every \$1 to assist the community of Goulais River, rather than the normal \$1 to \$1. I welcome this statement and express my appreciation to him and to his colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio).

I also join with the minister in congratulating the local community, in particular the fire team at Goulais River, as well as the ministry staff. The assistance provided by the ministry staff to the local services board has been most helpful, and I look forward to the local services board's being able to use the money raised locally and from the province to assist the community and the people who have suffered flood damage.

I hope the government, though, will not just rest here but will look at some method of alleviating future floods and avoiding having to provide this kind of assistance to the flood victims every three or four years. We should be doing something to ensure that there is flood control on that river valley.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Mr. McLean: Briefly, I just want to say I am pleased to see that the minister has followed the great example set by the previous administration in order that sports facilities and recreation facilities will exist and continue across Ontario. Not only that, but I am pleased to see the part with regard to the physically handicapped and older adults that is included in it. I think it is great, and I am pleased to see that the minister has followed the example set previously.

1400

HOUSING ON GOVERNMENT LAND

Mr. Jackson: I am pleased to respond to the statements made by the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten) and the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), Ontario's newest tag team, as they wrestle the price of affordable housing to the ceiling in Ontario.

It is passing strange that over a year ago this government leaked to the media a plan that would involve many of the component parts which now, a year later, we are hearing about in this House. It

is also passing strange that today they have seen fit to announce only five sites, yet 12 sites were mentioned in an article in the *Globe and Mail* on March 15, and last year I believe there were even more sites mentioned in an article in the *Toronto Star*.

If you analyse these sites more carefully, what is interesting is the size of the land which is integral to the amount of density and therefore the number of affordable units which can be built. Whereas in Toronto, right in the core of the community where this building stands, where the most acute shortages of housing exist in this province, the government has seen fit to release a half-acre site at 70 Lombard Street, it is silent about a 6.3-hectare property occupied by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, a property which we understand a certain newspaper in this community has expressed some interest in acquiring.

Where is the real degree of commitment when the minister knows full well there are at least 18,000 people in this city who are in critical need of housing? Will the minister have the courage to stand in this House two and a half to three years from now to announce that she has handed over the keys to those tenants or to those purchasers? We know she will be there to cut a ribbon, but will she be able to stand in this House and state not the announcement but the completion and the delivery of those units?

As I say, it is passing strange that we have an interesting new tag team in Ontario politics for the housing problem, when we can have a statement such as this in the House, which saves the Minister of Housing from her three count just moments before the Premier (Mr. Peterson) throws in the towel.

If these are the solutions which this government thinks are going to remedy the affordable housing crisis, they do not. They do not produce the kind of assurances that persons without housing in this city and across this province badly need. It is important, as well, to note that at least our party has stated its concern with the fact that a back-bench member of the government has been making statements to constituents and elsewhere prior to the statement being released in this House. We feel that is an unfortunate and inappropriate set of circumstances and we would hope that the minister would exercise a little more discretion and a little better judgement in future in the treatment of these announcements.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. McCague: In relation to the statement made today by the Minister of Municipal Affairs

(Mr. Eakins), I am sure he is waiting for me to say something nice about him after the exchange we have had in the last few days. I intend to do that any time the minister does something that is good and right.

I know the people of Goulais River will appreciate the disaster relief assistance. I congratulate the minister for providing it to them. I can only relate that to the relief we received in our area from the tornado that went through, and to again congratulate him, which sort of balances the scale.

ORAL QUESTIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. B. Rae: My question is to the Premier. The Premier has stated on a number of occasions that it is his view that if a store owner does not want to open on a Sunday, he or she does not have to open on a Sunday. That is the basic protection for small business which the Premier is providing.

Can the Premier confirm today that the only protection a small business in the province has from losing its market, from having to work on a Sunday, the only protection the Premier is providing, is simply to say to those employers and, indeed, to employees across the province, "If you do not want to work or you do not want to stay open, you do not have to"?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: If my honourable friend will be patient, he will see the legislation in the very near future and then he can make his comments thereon.

Mr. B. Rae: We have had very different information. The House leader gave us some information with respect to when the bill would be forthcoming. The Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) gave some information to the House, and then she proceeded to give different information yesterday to the press about when the bill was forthcoming. We understand now that it is her intention to bring forward the bill on Thursday, which is not the information she was telling the House when she spoke in the House yesterday.

I am sure the Premier is aware of the very substantial debate that took place in the United Kingdom, in the House of Commons in 1985, with respect to the question of shop hours and the protection of Sunday workers. I wonder if the Premier would care simply to take note of the fact that one major difference between the vote that took place in the United Kingdom in 1985 and the vote that we anticipate will take place some time within the next few years in Ontario with respect to Sunday shopping is that the vote in the House

of Commons was a free vote and, in fact, members were allowed to vote their conscience because of the implications for questions about working on a Sunday and the changes to the law on Sunday.

Would the Premier not agree that a vote on conscience with respect to changing the legislation would be a good idea in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member is quite right. This has been a matter of some considerable debate in a number of countries such as Britain and in other provinces in our own country. When I was recently in Germany it was the major issue there and I had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Chancellor.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Was that before or after you got there?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That was while I was there. So, indeed, different countries have different approaches to these matters.

I think what one has to do before one becomes too alarmist about this situation is to look at other provinces where it is operating under local option. A lot of the alarms my honourable friend has had and a lot of the questions he has raised have been answered in very practical and real terms there. The dire social consequences that he predicts did not, in fact, happen. Some people open, some people do not open; some communities are open, some are not open. It is tailored very well to the community.

Look, I am not a dictator. I can tell him that we have had lots of votes in this House when some of my colleagues have not agreed with me, and presumably if they do not they will stand up and express themselves accordingly.

Mr. B. Rae: Does the Premier not see a contradiction between saying that shop owners have a conscience with respect to whether or not they stay open, that municipalities have a right to choose under the approach which he says he is going to be putting forward, and that, indeed, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) is supposed to bring forward legislation which we understand, according to what we have been told by the Solicitor General, is going to say something about workers? Does he not think he ought to make a similar statement in this Legislature that clearly states to his own members that they have a right to choose, too, in terms of how they are going to vote?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I accept the challenge. If he lets the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) vote the way he wants to and the

way that he has expressed in the past, we will happily do the same here.

Mr. B. Rae: Done. All right, that is it. There we are. All it depends on is whether or not the Premier is prepared to exercise his freedom and do in public what he has been saying he wanted to do in private. That is what it all depends on.

PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. B. Rae: My next question is to the Premier. Again, I would like to ask him a question about the latest information with respect to the increase in house prices in Toronto.

The Premier will know that when Michael Wilson introduced his tax reform changes, the first \$100,000 of a capital gain—that is to say, the sale, for example in real estate, of a nonprincipal residence, a house which you do not live in, that sale would be tax-free for the first \$100,000. The Premier, if he chooses to peruse any of the multiple listing directories with respect to real estate, will find literally dozens of properties across Metropolitan Toronto which trade hands after having been owned for a few short months.

1410

Can the Premier tell us why he remains so opposed to a tax on speculation, which would simply ensure that people who are in the real estate market in order to make a quick buck on a quick flip are not able to do so, which would inevitably take some of the heat out of the real estate market which is now so clearly there.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think we should just be very fair the way we characterize federal tax reform with something the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and this government disagreed with. When Mr. Wilson—was it two or three years ago?—introduced a \$500,000-tax-free, lifetime capital gains, we thought that was an unfair way to tax. It started with \$100,000 in the first year. That applied not just to houses but to art and to a variety of other so-called capital transactions; it was not directed just to houses.

We all know your principal residence can be traded tax-free in any circumstances. But anybody who is engaged in the business of speculating or trading in houses or apartments, art, cars or anything else is taxed on the basis of capital gains which, as my honourable friend knows, is one half of the income rate. There is taxation on that, on people who carry on business that way.

In addition to that, my honourable friend will be aware that there is a land transfer tax applied every time there is an exchange of property. I think my honourable friend, understanding tax-

ation as he does, realizes that people who speculate in houses are taxed on a capital gains basis.

Mr. B. Rae: If the Premier wants to play games, all right. You are taxed on a capital gains basis above the \$100,000 level, which is tax-free, which he did not mention. So \$100,000 is tax-free, half your capital gain is also tax-free and half your capital gain goes into your income, which then, if you have flow-through shares or whatever else you may have, may also be subject to reduction in tax.

Specifically on real estate, the Premier must know now that the average price of a home in Metropolitan Toronto has increased by 68.2 per cent in the last two years. There is substantial evidence with respect to speculation in property in this city, because of the way in which prices are going up.

I would like to ask the Premier why he rejects the very sensible suggestion which has been made by my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) on a number of occasions, and made again yesterday by Councillor Pantalone in Metropolitan Toronto, that we have a spec tax in Toronto, which will take the heat out of speculation, out of the flipping, out of the sales and the resales which are contributing to an overheated market and which are driving prices out of the range of ordinary working families in Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I understand my honourable friend's philosophical commitment to that kind of taxation, but he has to understand that if someone only turns a few houses, that could very well be a capital gain, but anybody who speculates in houses would be taxed at income rates; it is a business of trading in houses. In fact, there is taxation in addition to, as I said, the land transfer tax.

My honourable friend thinks that would work. It was tried before in this province and repealed. The evidence, looking back, is that it did not accomplish a great deal. It is something the Treasurer has reviewed and presumably will continue to review. The Treasurer was good enough to hand me an article just now, which says, "Toronto real estate market warm but not as hot as before." There has been some cooling off in that particular regard.

It is a function of the high growth of the area, the enormous economic activity here, the people who are moving here, and my honourable friend is aware of that. At the same time, when one looks at the initiatives undertaken by the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and her ambitious plans,

I think we are going to make some difference along the way.

Mr. Laughren: Surely the Premier admits there is a problem when, between February and March of this year, the average resale price in Metro went up by \$6,000. Surely the Premier understands that those are not normal market forces at work; those are speculative forces at work.

What solution does the Premier have if he is not prepared to accept the opposition party's very reasonable land speculation tax?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First, the member draws the conclusion that it is speculation, as opposed to people moving into houses, as opposed to people moving into the Golden Horseshoe and wanting to buy houses. The member assumes they are speculators. As I said, if they are speculators, they are taxed through other ways.

The question is, on reasonable analysis, would the member's kind of solution cool out that so-called speculation, if it is the problem, which he has not established? I do not think there is any evidence there, from past experiments in that regard.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Premier as well and it is with respect to the issue of Sunday shopping. On this side of the House, we have had some question in our mind as to why so many of the Liberal members of this House object to Sunday shopping and have indicated quite publicly that they are opposed to seven days of commercial activity while at the same time they seem to be supporting the government's plan. Perhaps we have an answer to that, which I would like to share with the Premier.

The member for Guelph (Mr. Ferraro), a small business advocate as well, has stated publicly that Sunday openings will harm small business, the very group he speaks for. He stated publicly that he opposes Sunday shopping, as do the majority of his constituents. His reason for supporting the government policy, according to the December 30, 1987, edition of his local newspaper is, and I quote: "It's a two-way street, he said. A member of the Liberal caucus who wants money for hospital redevelopment, for example, must also realize what the party will want on some issues."

Will the Premier disabuse the House that he is using some form of coercion or threat to whip the Liberal back-benchers into line by perhaps refusing to fund some of the badly needed projects they need in their ridings?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Absolutely not. We believe in the sheer power of ideas and leadership, and I think people will respect that. The honourable member asked me why members would say they are not particularly in favour of Sunday shopping in their communities but would support the legislation. The answer is quite simple. They understand the legislation and the member does not. That is the reason.

This legislation is not about wide-open Sunday shopping. It is about a local option adapted to local situations. If the member for Guelph does not feel it is appropriate for Guelph, that is clearly his opinion, but he may well, when asked—and the member is entitled to ask him—think that if the people in Niagara Falls think it is a good idea, he would respect the rights of the people in Niagara Falls to make their own decision. That shows how sensitive the members of the Liberal Party are, that they do understand the distinction of something that has not yet registered on the honourable member opposite.

Mr. Brandt: Even the Premier could not say that with a straight face. He has great difficulty in repeating those lines.

The question then becomes, if so many Liberal back-benchers are in support of this legislation, it is interesting to note the numbers who have spoken out against it. We all know the municipal option is wide-open Sunday shopping through the back door. In spite of that, the member for Guelph, the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams), the member for Cornwall (Mr. Cleary), the member for London South and Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), the member for Perth and Speaker (Mr. Edighoffer), the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes) and the member for St. Catharines-Brock (Mr. Dietsch), just to name a few, who all campaigned against wide-open Sunday shopping, are now being forced to vote against their beliefs.

Can the Premier tell us what he means when he says he has a wide-open and responsive government, when his very own members campaigned against the position he is now putting before the people of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Again, my honourable friend, I think, draws conclusions that are not correct. I apologize for not being able to look at him with a straight face. That is a problem a lot of us have when we face the member.

The conclusions that my friend draws with respect to wide-open Sundays, I say factually are nonsense. Personally, I could take up a collection from the honourable members on this side of the House, the Liberal Party members, and we

would have enough money for a bus ticket for the member to go to Calgary or Vancouver and examine the situation there. Frankly, he could take as much time as he would like, but if he examined the situation he would find that his fears are not warranted and that the construction he puts on the exercise is factually wrong.

I think the members on his side of the House, the members of this party, understand that. The member opposite, on reflection and study, should listen to members like the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) and some of his colleagues who have shown the insight to understand what we are doing on this side of the House and do favour what we are doing. I am sure if he listens to the grass roots in his own party, he will come to the conclusion that we are doing the right thing and he will stand publicly in this House and recant.

1420

Mr. Brandt: On occasion the Premier is quite witty; then there are other occasions when he is only half-right witty.

In response to the Premier, I would like to comment on the fact that the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry will be able to vote freely according to his conscience on this issue. I join with the leader of the official opposition by saying to the Premier that, as of this point, the members of this party are free to vote on this issue as they wish. We will have a free vote in our party. Is the Premier prepared to do the same in his party?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not a dictator here. All the matters we discuss here are discussed with my colleagues. We have seen it before in this House where this government had a position but other members have stood up and disagreed with the government. That has happened and that is the nature of democracy. All these members speak for themselves.

If the member for Sarnia with his oratory can persuade these members to change their minds, thoughtful as they all are, sensitive to the needs of a progressive and dynamic Ontario, then I am sure they will, on their own, stand up and say, "I agree with the member opposite." It will be interesting to see how it turns out.

Mr. Brandt: It certainly would be interesting to see how it turns out because, frankly, the Premier is not prepared to allow his members to vote according to—

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question and to whom?

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Brandt: My question is not to the Premier. It is to the Minister of Housing. I would like to ask the minister when the government intends to have section 91 of the Residential Rent Regulations Act proclaimed. She quoted from section 91 at the time she was addressing the Ontario Home Builders' Association, I believe.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: We are looking at the implications of proclaiming section 91 of the rent review legislation. When we have come to a decision, we will make it clear here.

Mr. Brandt: It is important to know so that we have a clearer idea of when the minister intends to proclaim that section of the act.

I would like to quote, if I might. When the minister was addressing the Ontario Home Builders' Association, she commented at that time: "That situation should change when we get another section of the new legislation proclaimed," meaning section 91. "It allows for a much quicker increase over a number of years to try to bring those rents up to the market."

So the minister's statement to home builders is, "Just hang in there and give us an opportunity over a short period of time and we will be able to get those rents up in a real hurry." That is not the message the minister is giving to the tenants of this province.

Mr. Speaker: The question would be?

Mr. Brandt: The question the minister is raising with the tenants of this province is that she is going to regulate rents. Which is it, the message she gave to the home builders or the message she is giving to the tenants?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member opposite knows very well that section 91 of the legislation deals with a particular kind of building with particular problems. What I said to the home builders was that, in order to be able to regulate that section, we would need to do some more work. We are doing it, and when we are ready we will announce it.

Mr. Brandt: We hear the same story with respect to all phases of housing. Bill 51 is obviously not working. The former minister brought that bill in and indicated to the people of this province that it would clear up the difficulties as they relate to landlord and tenant problems. That has not happened.

When is the minister going to be prepared to take some action within her ministry to bring some kind of order out of the current chaos that relates to the very lengthy rent review hearings, the delays, which are getting worse all the time,

and her budget, which is getting higher all the time? What action does the minister intend to bring about in order to clear up the mess we are in at the current moment?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: If the honourable member is saying the legislation has some problems, I could not disagree with that. It is a complex statute. I know that not every member in the House supported it. I am looking at the way in which it is working and monitoring its results in a variety of ways.

The work we are doing, I think, is most important because, as part of its package, this legislation has protected tenants all over the province. Just this week I announced the way we are going to protect tenants who are concerned about the conversion of parts of their buildings into suite hotels. In relation to the Rental Housing Protection Act, we are working to protect tenants as well.

I understand the legislation is not perfect. We are working to monitor it and to see how it works.

FORMER TIRE PLANT

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Can the minister bring the House up to date on the recent purchase of the Firestone plant in Hamilton, particularly in relation to the future of the Firestone workers and whether they will have first priority in the event of any production possibilities?

At the same time, can he tell us if he is aware of the current rumours the union has picked up in the last two days that Firestone is about to remove from the plant the key equipment that would make that a possibility and can he assure us that will not be allowed to happen?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The only thing I can tell the member is what I know. It is a private sector deal. I should tell him that the plant has been sold. An investor from Toronto has bought it. He has bought it primarily as a real estate investment. He is anxiously pursuing opportunities that could be in place to utilize the equipment that is there. I cannot tell the member how that is progressing. I can tell him that my understanding is that he has bought the plant with all of its equipment, and Firestone has no longer any lien, any interest or any proprietary right in that equipment. Firestone has sold the plant unconditionally with all of the equipment in it.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am pleased to hear that comment for the record. Will the minister give this House a commitment that there will not be \$1 of taxpayers' money going either to the Firestone

operation or to the new Goodyear initiative in Napanee unless we have written in some hard guarantees that there is some right of work and protection to the workers who have paid the price in the closure of both of those particular operations in the past couple of years?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: In regard to the Firestone plant, there has been no request or no commitment from this government to get involved in any way. As far as the Goodyear plant is concerned, we will be making an announcement on that project in due course.

AGENT GENERAL IN PARIS

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Premier. The Premier must have read with interest recently of Ms. Adrienne Clarkson's criticism of his government's failure to appoint an agent general in Paris. Adrienne Clarkson has done in the past a tremendous job for Ontario and Canada in Paris. The Premier has left that post vacant for over two years. When is he going to take some action in this area?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We have a very excellent person in charge there who is assuming all of the function and role of an agent general. In due course, we will be trying to make an official appointment. All the functions are being looked after. If my honourable friend is applying for the job, then we will happily look at his application.

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: Unfortunately, it is a serious concern. One commentator has suggested that as a result of this government's inaction, the French government has been given the impression that Ontario intends to decrease its business activity with that country. I want to ask the minister how he can justify that in view of Monday's announcement with regard to his trying to look to wider world markets and yet taking no action when action is called for.

When is he going to do something to back up what he has been talking about to the press and the people of Ontario, that he wants to trade abroad? Let us fill the post.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the question has been asked.

Mr. Sterling: Let us do something in a concrete manner.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I appreciate the member's advice on the matter. As I said, all the functions are being fulfilled at the present time. Things are going very well. The honourable minister was in Paris and France not too long ago. I am sorry the member was not able to join

him on that trip, but I can tell him that business is proceeding apace and things are going very well in our relationships with France and many other European countries.

I am not sure whom my honourable friend is quoting. Criticism is often levelled in this business, but that is completely ill-founded and I know he will go to the source of that, whoever did it, and say that really is not correct and is not substantial in the circumstances.

1430

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Mr. Neumann: My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Most Ontarians possess birth certificates which are wallet-sized and laminated in plastic. These certificates are durable and easy to carry around for day-to-day use. I am sure that most members of this House have possessed one of these certificates.

Citizens who have had to replace birth certificates in the past few years have been surprised to find that newly issued birth certificates are now printed on flimsy Canadian Bank Note paper and are voided if laminated. I have been informed that lamination is not allowed because it would eliminate some of the security features of the birth certificate.

What are the security features of these new birth certificates which can be voided if laminated?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The honourable member is correct. The wallet-sized birth certificates were laminated until, I believe, the middle of 1982. Since then, and as a result of discussions with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the vital statistics office, in Ontario and, I understand, in all other jurisdictions of Canada, the lamination is no longer the way of producing these birth certificates for the use of our citizens.

The problem is a security problem. One of the things that was done to solve that problem was the use of Bank Note paper, which is now being used, but if we were to laminate the Bank Note paper, in checking it, in having to do a check, the various kinds of images, the various kinds of numbers that are actually on that Bank Note paper that is used to produce the birth certificate could not be seen in terms of that kind of a check, and that is why the laminating of those birth certificates would now void those birth certificates.

I state again, it is not just in Ontario, it is in all the provinces of the country.

Mr. Neumann: I understand that program-mable microdots on these new birth certificates can be used to store personal information about the individual to whom the certificate has been issued. Will the minister indicate whether these microdots have been used for this purpose to date in Ontario, and furthermore, can the minister assure this House that such use is compatible with provisions of right-to-privacy legislation and the Charter of Rights?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I say to my friend that the Bank Note paper is shipped here to Toronto and the certificates are printed at random. I certainly understand the implications of the honourable member's question in terms of right to privacy and the placing of information on microdots on one of these birth certificates, which would be quite improper.

I will make inquiries for the honourable member and get back to him, but I must suggest that, since people in our ministry are doing the ultimate printing of the birth certificates, I would be very surprised if there were any chance of that kind of misuse of the birth certificates occurring.

EDUCATION OF HEARING-IMPAIRED

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Education and regards the 80,000 profoundly deaf individuals who live in Ontario. I guess I want to ask the minister about whether or not he thinks they have been receiving quality education or whether they have been grotesquely failed by our education system in Ontario.

Is he aware, for instance, that the Canadian Hearing Society believes it is highly unusual for a deaf child to receive an education which provides him with anything better than a grade 4 reading capacity and that an Alberta study shows that only five per cent of the deaf across this country test above the grade 10 level?

If he has concerns, could he tell me whether or not he has any studies of our schools for the deaf to check the quality of education or whether he accepts their premise that they are in fact producing good graduates?

Hon. Mr. Ward: In response to the member, I will indicate to him that indeed I do share his concern and will be looking into it further.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As part of his investigation, I wonder if the Minister of Education could respond today, perhaps, or in the future, as to why it is that we have half as many deaf teachers teaching the deaf in Ontario today as we had in 1929. That is to say, we have only eight deaf teachers in the whole province.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I cannot respond to that supplementary today.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Treasurer. The Treasurer will know that federal income tax reform will result in lower taxes for 80 per cent of households in Ontario. A family of four earning \$30,000 will enjoy a tax break of \$500 this year, thanks to Michael Wilson.

Can the Treasurer give Ontario residents his assurance that, whatever he does in his budget next week, he will not introduce measures that will rob Ontario taxpayers of this \$500 in tax relief provided by Ottawa?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Aside from the use of the word "rob," no.

Mr. Harris: I find it ironic that, after three years of spending double or triple the rate of inflation, health care is worse in this province, the housing situation is worse, the education shortfalls are worse. The government has had increases from Ottawa of 8.2 per cent, 7.1 per cent, 6.7 per cent in transfers. It has increased taxes. It has spent over 10 per cent a year increases for the last three years.

I guess what I want to know is, when will the Treasurer admit that throwing money at these problems perhaps is not the only solution, that it is not the quantity of money he throws at them—because he has thrown quantities of money at them—perhaps it is how the money is being spent?

I will ask the Treasurer, since he will not control expenditures, or cannot, why did he reject the minority report that our members provided to the committee to help him look at how he is spending all that money and help control expenditures here in the province?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am sure the critic for the third party would be aware that because of initiatives taken by the government of Canada, the transfers for established programs, including post-secondary education and health, have not been increasing at the rate that was originally agreed to, which was close to 50 per cent. As a matter of fact, in that period of time the transfers from Ottawa have gone from about 52 per cent of the costs of health down to about 38 per cent.

To tell the truth, I certainly cannot find it in my heart to blame the Minister of Finance, because his problems are very great, except that he seems to be building up his resources to buy \$8-billion worth of nuclear submarines, and we are trying to build a hospital, even one in North Bay.

BAYVIEW VILLA

Mr. Matrundola: My question is to the Minister of Health. Her ministry has just completed an inquiry into the high number of deaths at the Bayview Villa nursing home at Cummer and Bayview Avenue in my riding. I believe the investigation concluded that the deaths were due to natural causes and were not related or linked to poor care.

However, some complaints put forward by the group Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities were found to be justified. These problems included not properly recording food and beverage intake, rushing residents through meals and other poor feeding practices.

Therefore, could the minister please advise the House what steps are being taken to ensure that this type of problem will not occur again?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to acknowledge the member's concern in this area. As he knows, inspectors did follow up with the problems that had been identified. In most cases, no evidence was concluded to confirm the complaints. However, some problems were identified and nursing home branch inspectors as well as dietary inspectors will be returning to the home to ensure that their recommendations will be complied with.

1440

Mr. Matrundola: Can the minister assure the House that these concerns will be looked into across the province to make sure that this is an isolated problem and, hopefully, not a widespread one?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the member knows, and I hope all members in this House know, this government is committed to quality of life and quality of care for senior citizens in nursing homes and I think we have made considerable progress. We have increased resources for food and staffing in nursing homes. We have rewritten the Nursing Homes Act to give the Ministry of Health greater authority, and I can assure the member that a number of steps have been taken to ensure the high standards of care right across this province. I thank him for his question.

Mr. Reville: My question is to the Minister of Health and, strangely enough, it is on the same subject as that raised by the member for Willowdale. The minister has alluded to this flimsy report by her nursing homes branch. I think members of the House should be aware that there were 32 deaths at this establishment in four months, a rate of death far higher than at facilities of comparable size. Is it not the minister's view

that a much more serious investigation should be undertaken, including epidemiological studies, so that in fact some factors can be looked at that would account for a rate of death at Extendicare Bayview that is fully two or three times higher than at similar facilities?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I thank the member opposite, my critic, for the information. All deaths which take place in nursing homes are investigated by the coroner. In this case, the coroner investigated all of those deaths and determined that they were because of natural causes. Ministry officials have had preliminary discussions with the coroner. I understand an additional meeting will be taking place and an epidemiologist from the ministry will be in attendance.

Mr. Reville: It is quite correct that the ministry investigation did include extensive consultations with the coroner, as is quite proper. Twelve of the deaths were put down to pneumonia. In fact, the minister will know that one of the contributing factors that will lead to contracting pneumonia is inadequate fluid intake. Her inspector demonstrated poor feeding practices and poor liquid supply practices in this nursing home. There were 12 deaths from pneumonia out of the 32, and we have had another one just recently. Does the minister not think it is time to do a more serious study?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I do want to thank the member opposite for the question. Whenever we see an inordinately high number of deaths, there is always cause for concern. I understand that the coroner will be meeting April 21 at the home with members of the families involved. I invite the member opposite, as well as the concerned friends group, to attend that meeting to satisfy themselves of the coroner's findings.

I can assure the member that the dietary branch, the inspectors from the Ministry of Health, will be ensuring that their recommendations on those issues concerned will be implemented in the home.

SULPHA IN HONEY

Mr. Wiseman: I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I am sure the minister is aware that the honey producers ran into a problem in 1987 by following the ministry's guidelines and the directive from the ministry in late 1986 suggesting to them that they be sure to feed sulpha along with the sugar and water to control American foul brood. They did not find there was a problem with doing that until well into the 1987 crop year, when another

bulletin came out saying that they could not sell that product if it had more than one part per million.

The federal government, I understand, has said that it would allow blending, and many other provinces have allowed their honey producers to do just that. Will the Minister of Agriculture and Food say in the House today that he will allow our farmers to do that when, in fact, they were following his ministry's direction in 1986 and did not know there was a problem until they got the report in 1987?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: This is the first this particular matter has been drawn to my attention. We will certainly have a look at it, but this province has certainly tried to discourage the use of sulpha in the bee colonies. I quite agree that we have been running into a problem. I have been contacting the federal Minister of Agriculture to try to take steps to see that we do control the use of sulpha in the bee colonies and that we do control the importation of honey from colonies that have had sulpha fed to them. I will see if I can go it alone in Ontario and what implications that will mean for Ontario.

Mr. Wiseman: I am really surprised the minister has said he was not aware, when he said he has already had discussions. I would have thought he would have known that streptomycin has been the drug they now are using instead of sulpha and that he would have known, from talks with his provincial counterparts across the country, that Manitoba already has a blending machine.

Because they were following the ministry's guidelines and because the federal government will say there is no problem if it is below one part per million, all these farmers are asking is will the minister allow them to do this, as they have in other provinces? If he will not, and he is using it in some sorts of feeds, will he say today that he will purchase that and save many of the farmers, who have up to \$30,000 or \$40,000—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: When I responded to the honourable gentleman's first question, what I said was that the matter of blending honey that has had some sulpha included has not been brought to my attention. The Ontario Beekeepers' Association has not requested that I permit the blending of honey. That is the point I want to make. If the beekeepers' association wants to come to me with a recommendation, I will certainly be prepared to consider its recommendation.

POST-DATED PAYMENTS

Mr. Callahan: I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. My question to the minister is, this morning I had a call—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like to hear this question if possible.

Mr. Callahan: This morning I had a call from a constituent of mine who indicated to me that he had entered into a contract with a health club, a numbered company, that took from him, by way of consideration for the contract, a series of post-dated Visa slips, with an understanding under the contract that those Visa slips would not be negotiated until the dates on the particular slips came up. I understand from the constituent that, in fact, what happened was that these were presented to Visa and Visa honoured all of them, even though they were post-dated.

What can the minister do about this? Is this an appropriate action on the part of Visa in cashing these in advance of the dates that are on them?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The use of post-dated Visa slips is not, in a sense, unlike the use of post-dated cheques. The kind of problem the honourable member refers to has come to the attention of the ministry in the past and has been investigated by the ministry. I would have to hear the specifics of the case and have a look at the specifics of the contract in order to advise the honourable member, and through him his constituent, whether the cashing of those Visa certificates before the dating on them was, in fact, proper or not.

1450

Mr. Callahan: If I send the minister the particulars, I wonder if the minister's department, in investigating that, would look into the activities of the company that cashed the slips; and would also look into the question of Visa's response to my constituent, that because it was in a matter between them and the constituent that they deemed it appropriate for them to cash those slips without the dates actually having become current?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The member raises actually an important point. I have been told by my ministry officials that this method of payment, particularly for health clubs, some of which are charging very expensive monthly fees, is very much on the upswing. The member raises an important point which goes beyond the individual concern of his constituent and into the whole

practice of Visa payment and the treatment which not only Visa, but other credit card companies are affording these post-dated payments.

We have in the past addressed the issue of post-dated cheques. I think the member raises a very important concern and I give him a commitment, if he will send me all of the pertinent information we will look at it and give him a response.

AXIAL FLOW TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Wildman: I have a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Considering the fact that taxpayers' funds from the federal level have been used to develop the axial flow technology for combines and considering that Massey Combines will likely be sold in sections, which means that the axial flow combines technology might be spun off separately by the receiver, will the minister indicate what he is doing and what this government is doing, what steps it is taking either by itself or in conjunction with the federal government, to keep this state-of-the-art technology in Ontario and Canada?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: We are in a situation, as the member knows, where they have closed down the combines operation and we do not know what is going to happen to that facility. It is in the hands of a receiver. We are hopeful something will come of it whereby we can not only maintain the technology but put that plant back into production. Unfortunately, I cannot give the member any assurance at the moment that any one of those things is going to happen.

Mr. Wildman: Surely the minister is aware that Peat, Marwick is advertising widely for possible buyers and that the technology in itself is probably the most valuable asset. Once the debt problems have been dealt with through receivership, it would be an attractive buy. Of the potential purchasers, whether it be John Deere, Ford, Kloecker-Humboldt, Case or Mr. Sinclair, only one is Canadian.

What is the government doing to try to ensure that the possibility of the purchase of that technology will not mean its transfer out of this province and out of this country?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I repeat again that we are very aware that the receiver is trying to sell some of the assets of the company. We are in close touch with him. We are monitoring the situation. Until we see a specific offer, and I have no indication that there will be an offer or what is happening, I cannot respond. I share the member's concern. We will do whatever we can to try

to keep that technology here, but until we see where the offer is from, whether or not we have any right to interfere with that offer, in light of the fact that the receiver has control of the assets, I cannot tell the member.

CONGRATULATORY SCROLLS

Mr. J. M. Johnson: My question is to the Minister of Government Services. As all members of this House should know, commencing May 1 Ontarians celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary or 80th birthday will be eligible to receive a congratulatory plaque from the province.

It is my understanding that the style and format of the plaque has been redesigned and that after April 30 the scroll will no longer bear the name of the MPP who is presenting it, but will continue to be signed by the Premier.

Will the member's name be included at the bottom of the scroll or not?

Hon. Mr. Patten: It is times like this when I wish I knew this kind of detail. I will look into this and report back to the member.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: On March 22 I sent the minister a letter requesting information on this. I realize that is only 23 days. As the minister is in charge of the mail service as well, maybe I can ask, while he is checking on the other, can he determine why it takes 23 days to send a letter from my office to his office, or at least to get a response?

Hon. Mr. Patten: All right. I will be happy to respond.

TRESPASSING

Mr. Mahoney: My question is to the Attorney General. Across this province, there have been a number of complaints raised by young people and minority groups in public areas, most notably in shopping malls, who have been evicted and, in many cases, banned from coming back into those malls for reasons that have not been properly explained to them.

Can the Attorney General tell us what he is doing about this problem and if he is looking at amending the legislation?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I thank the member for his question, which I know is a matter of lively concern in the Mississauga area and elsewhere. As the member knows, the government appointed Raj Anand, who is now the chairman of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, to look into this problem. His report was recently made. It reveals that while most mall owners behave with perfect discretion in exercising the unrestricted

rights they have under the Trespass to Property Act, there are a significant number of instances of discrimination.

Mr. Anand recommended a number of courses of action. We are considering the matter and we hope very shortly to be able to announce the approach of the government to this very sensitive but very important question.

Mr. Mahoney: This problem extends even beyond young people and minorities. I have had complaints in my community of senior citizens who have simply stopped to rest and who have been hustled along and not allowed to enjoy the atmosphere that is created in these wonderful new shopping plazas and, once again, not given proper reasons why.

I understand the shopkeepers' and the mall owners' concerns that the primary purpose of being in a mall is to shop, but on the other hand, they do invite the public in. I wonder what recourse the public might have under present legislation, where they could take their complaint to get some satisfaction?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The short answer to the honourable member's question is that at the present time in the state of the law, the person who is aggrieved by being put out of the shopping centre has no rights at all, though there is a case called *Regina v. Layton* in which someone who wanted to picket inside the Eaton's plaza but outside the stores asserted his charter rights. That is one of the cases that gave rise to the Anand report.

One of the things Mr. Anand recommended is that there should be a modest restriction on the plaza owner's right, which would require him to give to the person about to be expelled a reason in conduct inconsistent with the nature of the space that the plaza owner controlled. That would be a protection for senior citizens of the type the honourable member refers to, and young people, members of minority groups who from time to time regrettably feel this problem. It would also provide full assurance to mall owners that they will be able effectively and properly to police their property in a reasonable way.

HOME CARE

Mr. Hampton: My question is for the Minister of Health. The Minister of Health was in the House the other day when we talked briefly about the integrated home care program and it was disclosed that this was not an ideal program by any means.

The Minister of Health will also know that her ministry signs decentralized contracts with local

branches of the Canadian Red Cross Society and these decentralized contracts are, in effect, there to provide for homemaker services for many elderly and sick individuals, so that they may be cared for in their homes and not have to go into nursing homes or hospitals.

Mr. Speaker: A question would be in order.

Mr. Hampton: The minister will also know there is a severe problem in terms of the wages these people are paid. This has been studied and a promise has been made that the situation is going to be dealt with. Yet so far nothing has happened.

1500

Mr. Speaker: The question.

Mr. Hampton: When are these people who work on these Red Cross homemaker programs going to receive a decent wage?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The Ministry of Health's home care program provides services which include homemaking, but also professional services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, nutritional services and respiratory therapy. It is very successful in helping people stay in their homes. In fact, the home care program within the ministry has gone from a total cost five years ago of some \$67 million to some \$200 million presently, and we are finding the demands are ever-increasing. We are always concerned, as the member knows, about having fair wages paid to people, but on the other hand, we have to look at the demands for expansion of programs. Those are two interests which we try to weigh when we determine how we target our resources.

Mr. Hampton: It seems to me that, on the one hand, the minister acknowledges that by having these people perform these services her ministry is saving a great deal of money, because it certainly costs a lot less for them to do the work than it costs to put somebody into a hospital or a nursing home.

What does she have to say to someone like Louise Shine, who says: "I am a homemaker. I have a valid registered nursing assistant certification. I have a licence to drive to my work, which costs me a certain amount of money every year. I have to pay insurance. I have worked under the homemaker program for 14 years and I am paid \$6.08 an hour with no benefits, no pension plan, nothing." What does the minister say to someone like that?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The Ministry of Health representatives participated in an interministerial committee along with the Ministry of Community and Social Services on the whole issue of home

care. There are a number of issues that have arisen from that. In 1986, we know the home care program served some 95,000 senior citizens in this province. I do not think there is any question but that it delivers a valuable service and the demands for expansion of that service are very great.

The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), my colleague, has also addressed some of those issues in response to questions. It is always a very difficult question to resolve, how to expand those services to meet the needs, at the same time ensuring that people are fairly compensated for their efforts.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Pope: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can the Minister of Labour indicate to me whether or not he, officials of his ministry or representatives of the Workers' Compensation Board have met with the Quebec Minister of Labour, the Quebec Ministry of Labour representatives or the Quebec workers' compensation board representatives with respect to lung cancer among gold miners?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Speaking for myself, I can tell my friend the member for Cochrane South that I have not yet had an opportunity to meet with my Quebec counterpart Pierre Cadieux, the Minister of Labour in Quebec. I anticipate meeting him in the very near future to talk about a whole range of issues. As to whether or not representatives of the Workers' Compensation Board or officials within the Ministry of Labour have had meetings with their counterparts from Quebec, there are no meetings that I know of. If my friend wants me to investigate that matter further, I would not have any trouble doing that.

Mr. Pope: The purpose of my question was that, as the minister may or may not be aware, widows and children of miners who have died from lung cancer are being denied benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled, because they, like so many others in northeastern Ontario in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, worked for Ontario companies that were contracting companies in Quebec and Ontario. Because they had the misfortune to spend some time in Quebec, one of our sister provinces and part of Canada, the minister's officials in the Workers' Compensation Board are denying them compensation they would otherwise be entitled to.

What I am asking the minister to do as Minister of Labour for all of us is to sort out this problem with the Quebec workers' compensation board

and make sure that where you work in this country is not a determining factor in whether or not you get compensation that you would otherwise be entitled to for a lung cancer death.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Just to correct an inadvertent error, I said Pierre Cadieux was the Quebec Minister of Labour. Of course, it is Pierre Paradis.

To take up from where my friend the member for Cochrane South left off, let me tell him that the study the Workers' Compensation Board did resulted in some 400 people becoming eligible for compensation as a result of work in gold mines in Ontario. The study into the relationship between working in gold mines and the development of lung and stomach cancer is the subject of ongoing study and obviously a very serious issue.

I will take the point my friend from Cochrane South makes and I will look into it, I can assure him of that. If it is necessary to report back to him on that particular issue, I undertake to do so.

PETITIONS

ABORTION

Mr. Callahan: I have four separate petitions. The first one contains approximately 162 signatories. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"As concerned citizens of Ontario, we are gravely concerned about the rights of the unborn child. We believe that an unborn child must be accorded every right to protection as given to those who can speak in their own defence.

"We therefore urge the government to support the inclusion of the protection for the unborn in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Callahan: I have a petition containing approximately 1,435 names, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are opposed to open Sunday shopping and want to retain a common pause day in Ontario. We do not want to work on Sundays."

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Callahan: The next petition contains approximately 110 signatures and reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is our constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of our preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

BRAMPTON REGISTRY OFFICE

Mr. Callahan: I have a further petition with 600 signatories, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"As members of the legal profession and professional title searchers, we understand that the government of Ontario plans to discontinue its operation of a paging system handling incoming telephone calls in the Brampton registry office. The Brampton office services one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in Ontario."

I will shorten it down. In essence, they are asking that the ministry reinstate this service to the registry office in Brampton.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Offer: I have two petitions. They are both from the St. George-St. David riding, recognizing the custom of the House that ministers not present petitions.

The first is through the Frank Amodeo naturopathic clinic and reads as follows:

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

It is signed by 50 concerned citizens.

In the same vein and from the same riding, through the Dale H. Okabe naturopathic clinic:

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

It too is signed by 50 concerned citizens.

Mr. M. C. Ray: I too have a petition regarding naturopathy, signed by 72 residents of Windsor, petitioning the Ontario Legislature to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest extent without prejudice or harassment. It too is addressed to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

1510

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Epp from the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly presented a report and moved the adoption of its recommendations.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member wish to make a brief statement?

Mr. Epp: I do. I will try to make it brief, but it is probably just a little more than brief.

In 1987, the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly issued a report concerning the service of process in the precincts of the Legislative Assembly. The report was not dealt with in the last parliament. The present committee is of the opinion that the current practice is ambiguous and recommends amendments to the Legislative Assembly Act for greater clarity.

The committee's report proposes a new section 38 to the act which would designate as a contempt of the House the service of a civil process upon any person in the Legislative Building, in any room in which a committee is meeting and in the legislative office of a member that is designated by the Speaker for the purposes of the bill.

To ensure awareness of these new provisions, the committee also recommends the circulation of an explanatory statement to members and their staff, staff of the Office of the Assembly, deputy ministers, process servers in Ontario, police forces and the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Later today, I will be presenting a bill for first reading that proposes amendments to the Legislative Assembly Act which embody the recommendations contained in the committee report.

Finally, pursuant to standing order 32(d), the committee requests that the government provide a comprehensive response to the committee's report within 120 days.

On motion by Mr. Epp, the debate was adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Fleet from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the committee's report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr10, An Act respecting the Oshawa Public Utilities Commission.

Bill Pr62, An Act respecting The Windsor Utilities Commission.

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill Pr22, An Act respecting the City of Mississauga.

Your committee would recommend that the fees, less the actual cost of printing, be remitted on Bill Pr70, An Act to revive Community Youth Programs Inc.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Swart moved first reading of Bill 111, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Swart: The purpose of the proposed section 1 in this bill is to provide that the Legislature sit part of every month during the year instead of the current policy whereby it may sit continuously for a four-month period in the spring and two months in the fall and be recessed or adjourned the rest of the year.

The proposed section 2 declares that the designations "member of the Legislative Assembly" and "MLA" are the official designations of persons who are elected to the Legislative Assembly. The intent is to have the designation conform more closely to the designation used in other provinces and to eliminate confusion between the designations "MPP" and "MP."

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Epp moved first reading of Bill 112, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Epp: This bill arises out of the report of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly which I presented to the House a short while ago. I believe this may be the first time a

chairman of a committee has introduced a bill for first reading at the request of a committee.

The bill would prohibit the service of civil process in the Legislative Building, in a room or place in which a committee of the assembly is meeting or in an office of a member of the assembly, other than a constituency office, that is designated by the Speaker. Breach of the prohibition would be dealt with as a contempt of the assembly.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INTERIM SUPPLY

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for interim supply for the period commencing April 16, 1988, and ending June 30, 1988.

Mr. Charlton: I will attempt to pick up where I left off my comments yesterday. Perhaps I could say at the outset that it is not my intention to go on too long this afternoon. But the Speaker may recall that some of the government members across the way were being rather rambunctious yesterday afternoon throughout a number of the speeches during the course of the afternoon, so perhaps I can tell them that I will tailor the length of my comments commensurate with their behaviour.

When I adjourned the debate yesterday afternoon, I was talking about Ontario Hydro and the problem which was announced some three weeks ago about the newly discovered need to retube reactors 3 and 4 at Pickering, the associated \$800-million cost and the concern that has grown out of that, which is that ultimately Ontario Hydro is going to have to retube all of its currently existing reactors, as well as the new reactors just about to come on stream at Darlington, at a fairly substantial cost, a cost which is going to distort the whole picture of Hydro's view and the government's view of what the real cost of nuclear power is in Ontario.

The concern I was expressing when I adjourned the debate was that the government and the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong) appeared not to understand the importance of this issue. At the time Hydro made its announcement, the minister stated clearly that he supported Hydro's announcement to retube reactors 3 and 4, but he has taken no action to really look into the implications of the matter for the larger system.

I see the former Minister of Energy sitting across the way and he understands. He is one of those who understands the potential implications of that announcement and the potential cost of some \$7 billion to \$8 billion, which Hydro had

not anticipated in its planning process. I am saying in this debate, and I am almost pleading if you like, that this government announce and take some action to have a very careful look at the real implications of that announcement of three weeks ago.

The potential consequences for Ontario and for Ontario's economy are horrendous. I do not hear anything, at least to date, coming from government and I want to see some kind of full investigation with a report to this House on the implications and costs of that announcement some three weeks ago.

I think that pretty well wraps up my comments on Ontario Hydro. I would like to move now to some brief comments on a couple of other issues.

The first one deals with health, and I am happy to see the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) still in the House this afternoon. Members will recall that in June 1986, we passed the legislation in this House banning extra billing in Ontario. Throughout the fall of 1986 and throughout all of 1987, we raised in this House on repeated occasions a number of other new twists that some doctors in this province were taking to get at extra charges to their patients.

One of those new twists was the advent of doctors who were asking their patients either to subscribe to an annual fee that was to cover services not normally covered by the Ontario health insurance plan, services such as the writing of medical reports and so on, or in the absence of paying that annual fee to their doctors to be billed directly and personally for a service OHIP would not cover.

1520

That issue has been raised dozens of times here in the House. To date, we have had no effective response from the Minister of Health on that issue. I guess the reason I am raising it here today is that I have just received in my constituency office a new round of letters from constituents in my riding who are patients of doctors who have very recently chosen to go that route. We have been raising this for the last 18 months.

I am making an assumption here: I assume that this new flurry of activity of doctors moving to this new charge against their patients all of a sudden is, in part, a result of the lack of response from the Minister of Health. In other words, in round one, 18 months ago and a year ago, the doctors who were most determined to find a way around the ban on extra billing were the first into this game. Those who thought, "Maybe, if this works, I will get in," but were reluctant to be the

first to jump in, are now jumping in because of the lack of response from the Minister of Health.

I would encourage her to please have a serious look at either covering the kinds of charges that are being billed directly to patients or being charged to patients through an annual fee, or to specifically name them as banned in the legislation we passed a year and a half ago.

I would like to move now just very briefly to the issue of auto insurance. I see that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) is not here at the moment, but his parliamentary assistant is here and I am sure the honourable gentleman will pass my comments along to him. I just want to make a couple of brief comments on the auto insurance issue since the Treasurer is also the Minister for Financial Institutions.

I guess, basically, the reason I have chosen to make these comments this afternoon is a response the minister made to my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) during question period yesterday or the day before. When the member for Welland-Thorold raised yet again the question of public auto insurance, the minister's response was that he seemed to recall an election campaign last summer and in September, and that he seemed to remember this party advocating public auto insurance during that campaign. His statement went something like, "I took the other position and there are more of us over here than there are of you over there."

I want to suggest that as I recall it, it was not the Treasurer and Minister of Financial Institutions who set Liberal Party policy on auto insurance during the campaign last year, it was the Premier (Mr. Peterson). If I recall correctly, there was some serious confusion in Ontario about what the Premier's position on that issue was. In some speaking engagements in Ontario, he took the position that public auto insurance was not the answer. On the other hand, in a speech he made down in the Niagara Peninsula, he said to the people of this province: "I'm not convinced that public auto insurance is the answer. On the other hand, I'm not ruling it out either."

I recall that constituents in my riding and in other ridings where I was present during the election campaign were honestly confused about the issue of public auto insurance, and not only honestly confused but also asking the question, just a few days before the election, "Do you really believe that if the Liberals win they will do something about public auto insurance?" They had very clearly been left with the impression

that this was one of the options the Premier was considering.

I guess I am just trying to say that the response of the Treasurer to my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold the other day may have been a perfectly honest response in the mind of the Treasurer and Minister of Financial Institutions in terms of how he perceived the issue of public auto insurance during the election campaign, but it was not quite as clear, in terms of the Premier's position and the Liberal Party's position, in the minds of the public of this province during that election campaign. As a result, the votes that were cast in that election were not as decisively as the Treasurer would lead us to believe a vote for or against issues like public auto insurance, which the Premier in my view very clearly and intentionally tried to confuse during the course of the campaign.

Having said that, there is just one last issue I would like to make very brief comment on, and that is the issue of housing. As members are aware, this has been a very heated issue on a daily basis here in the House for some months now, leading up to Christmas and since Christmas.

I am someone who came from a sector, prior to my election, where I was involved in the appraisal of property and got to watch the events of the late 1960s and early 1970s in terms of land speculation, which prompted the former Conservative government in this province, a government that at least the members of the Liberal Party and the ministers of the Liberal government would say was not as progressive as they are here today, to bring in a land speculation tax.

There have been questions raised a number of times here in this House about the reintroduction of a land speculation tax. In response to the question put today to the Premier by my leader and by the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), the Premier stated the obvious, which was that the land spec tax that was implemented in the 1970s by the Tories was later repealed and had not worked. I suggest the Premier is recalling the repealing of the act fairly well, but he has not taken the time to check Hansard in terms of both the government justification for repealing that bill and the reasons for which he and members of the Liberal caucus supported the repealing of that bill.

I was the Revenue critic for our caucus at that time and I was rather intimately involved in that debate. We opposed the repeal at the time. The government justification and the Liberal Party rationale for repealing that piece of legislation

had nothing to do with its failures. In fact, the rationale was precisely the opposite.

The Bill Davis government stood in this House, and at that time Stuart Smith, Liberal, stood in this House and used as a justification for repealing that bill the fact that the land speculation tax had brought speculation in the real estate market to its knees. The real estate market had been dead flat as a result for four years at that point. There had been no more speculation going on in Ontario and there was no longer any need for that piece of legislation.

1530

We, of course, argued the opposite. If the legislation had in fact brought land speculation to its knees and had been one of the major reasons for four years of fairly stable real estate prices in Ontario, to remove that safeguard was stupid and to leave it in place would prevent what we went through in 1985, 1986, 1987 and are going through in 1988 and on into 1989, 1990 and so on.

As a matter of fact, the rate of land speculation that evolved late in 1987 and early in 1988 is as high as the serious land speculation of the early 1970s, which prompted the introduction of that legislation in the first place. If we just look at recent weeks in isolation and they turn out to really point to the new trend as opposed to the average over the last year, the rate of land speculation resulting in the coming period will be about one third higher than the excessive land speculation of 1972, 1973 and 1974, which prompted the introduction of that land speculation legislation in the first place.

I suggest that it is time the Treasurer, the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaitre) and the Premier sit down and look a little more carefully at the record in terms of the debates that went on in 1978 and 1979 around the repeal of the land speculation tax and get a little clearer fix on whether they were saying in those days that the legislation had failed or that it had been a resounding success and therefore was no longer needed.

They need to think very carefully, if they have any real interest, as the reform government that they claim to be, in starting to get at and solving the problems in the housing sector in Ontario. It is no different in 1988 than it was in 1972 and 1973. Providing affordable land for housing in Ontario will be the key component to making any serious dent in the housing crisis and the housing shortage that we have in Ontario.

I think it is time that the Treasurer, the Minister of Revenue and the Premier sit down

and very carefully think that through; and then go and have a talk with the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) about what her officials are finding around the issue of being able to implement the very programs they have created in Metropolitan Toronto, in the Durham region, in the region of North York, in Hamilton-Wentworth and in many other urban municipalities across the province, where land speculation over the next year is going to outstrip all of the price guidelines in every single housing program they have.

It is a very serious issue, and I urge that they seriously reconsider the position they have taken, because it is one of the only effective ways of bringing the price of land under control. Having affordable land for housing is the major component of any housing program that is going to have any significant impact.

With that, I will wrap up my comments, although I will probably have some further comments to make on Ontario Hydro and energy matters during the course of the estimates discussions over the next few days.

Mr. Faubert: Some of my remarks to the member may seem naïve in that I am not sure what some of the debate and some of the comments of members commenting on interim supply are actually about, because it seems that one has the privilege of rambling through the whole gamut of everything the government does when one is commenting on this. But there are two brief comments I would like to make.

I would like to ask the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) what he is really suggesting when it comes to property tax reform in Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Lupusella: They do not know.

Mr. Faubert: That is exactly the point. The member states that local option only serves to guarantee inequities when it comes to that reform, and it is a reform long overdue and very much needed. I am not sure whether he is suggesting that it should be imposed by the Minister of Revenue or that, for some reason, it should simply be imposed by this government on the Metropolitan region as pure market value assessment, with all its basic negative impacts, with all its impacts on those on fixed incomes, homes of inequitable location or age of property.

It seems to me that the minister is doing the thing that everyone has asked him to do, that is to negotiate. The solution to taxation equity must and should be negotiated, however difficult in the light of the fact that Metropolitan Toronto, with the member's own New Democratic Party colleagues on the city council and on the

Metropolitan council, is on the leading edge of opposition to taxation equity. I wish he would take that into consideration with his remarks when he puts it forward that somehow it is his party that is leading reform in taxation.

I have one other quick comment. I just wonder what the member is referring to when he talks about Sunday shopping. I think this is the third member who has got up on this debate and talked about Sunday shopping. I just point out that it is really the Retail Business Holidays Act he is referring to, not Sunday shopping. He falls into the press trap of it consistently.

Mr. Charlton: I would like to respond to the member. I will start with the last issue first and say that in the same way the Premier has responded here to questions on the Sunday shopping and Sunday working issue, we have not fallen into any trap at all. We just have a significantly different view of the issue than the member does.

On the property tax issue, the member was asking me what, in reality, I was saying. First of all, the member should be clear that the New Democratic Party has a distinct policy on property tax reform, which does not in any way resemble the present program which this government is afraid to implement but says it supports.

If the government is afraid to implement it, then it must be the wrong program. This game of throwing it to the local option is doing two things, and this is what I was trying to address yesterday. First, it ensures that there will be no property tax reform of any kind in Metropolitan Toronto. Second, in the rest of the province, it ensures that what property tax reform does go on will not be fully equitable among municipalities.

Those are the two things the government is accomplishing with a policy that it says it supports as a government and yet is afraid to implement. If it is the wrong policy, they should get off their behinds and develop the right one and implement it. If it is the right policy, then they should proceed to implement it instead of playing this silly local option game.

If the member would like to sit down with us and discuss the policy we would implement if we were the government, it is set out in our policy book and we are prepared to talk about it any time he likes.

1540

Mr. Mackenzie: I am pleased to rise and participate in this debate. I do not feel under any pressure. I understand it is the first time I have been able to get into a debate on interim supply

like this at 3:40, when I have the option of going right through until we adjourn if I so feel.

I want the House to know that I am a compassionate man and I want to apologize in advance that the Liberals have to keep close to 20 members in the House just so that we are not stuck with a series of quorum calls. Some of the members are going to have to put up with whatever comments I may have over the next period of time.

When we talk about interim supply, there are so many things—and what is it?—\$9 billion or \$10 billion now of money already spent. Eleven months ago really we should have approved some of the estimates. I forget what the debate was, but it is not too long ago that others in this House, myself included, were raising the question of the absolute insanity of the kind of a procedure we have here—it is worse now than it used to be, since I was elected 12 and a half years ago—where we have been debating the estimates and the expenditures of government money long after the money has been spent.

It does not make a heck of a lot of sense and it also, I think, opens up a couple of cans of worms that the government should think about. Why should anyone of us want to vote for interim supply, other than the old saw that, “Well, surely you want to see the civil servants get paid, or the government be able to pay its bills”? But why should any of us want to approve interim supply and the kind of money we have already spent in this province without, as I say, approval of the estimates of the various ministries when there are so many things the government has not done and so many things it has backed off on and so many things that are certainly not the priorities that at least some other members in this House would have.

I see the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) shaking his head. I wonder if he really knows what our priorities are and what his own priorities are. I know they have some difficulty with their own priorities when I look at the promises we had during the election and what has happened since. I recall the member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan) getting up and feeling a little bit exercised in yesterday's debate. I think my colleague the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) was the previous speaker who had raised some of the concerns about the lack of action in certain areas in northern Ontario. He gave us one of those real rah-rah pitches and said: “Hey, just wait and see what a wonderful program we have coming up for northern

Ontario. You will not have any chance to have any reasons to be dissatisfied with it."

Well, I could start off with the comment that we have been waiting two or three years to see this wonderful program for northern Ontario, but I think even more to the point and more telling would be simply to say, what about the northern Ontario heritage fund and the commitment that was made to it? We have gone over a year where we have spent nothing and done nothing about it.

What I am simply saying—

An hon. member: Don't worry. It is coming.

Mr. Mackenzie: The member is not in his seat.

An hon. member: Were you there last week in northern Ontario?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member is not in his seat.

Mr. Mackenzie: I would like to simply say that it would be great if we had any feeling and any confidence that the remarks of the member for Brampton South meant anything. Certainly the commitment to the heritage fund did not mean anything. Certainly most of what we have asked for in terms of the changes in the north, as my colleagues pointed out very well, have not meant very much. Certainly the Sunday shopping issue was a complete reversal. Certainly we did not get the kind of expenditures that were promised specifically in terms of education. I could go on and on and on.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: But don't, Bob.

Mr. Mackenzie: Oh, I will. I have until six o'clock. I am going to do fine here today. It makes you really wonder why we should think that there might be any reason to accept a comment of a member, "Just wait and see what is coming." I guess you learn a little bit from history. We look at what has happened in the past right up until now and we do not see any action.

I want to list just a few of the things I think are wrong with what we are doing and on which we have not seen any action in Ontario. I do not know about the rest of the members here, but one of the things that struck me in the last couple of months in my constituency office—and I can honestly say that mine is a busy constituency office—is the number of people who are coming in once again with funding problems in terms of the skin disease that Dr. Kozak's clinic treats in Germany. I forget the name of the actual malady, but I have had three in my riding in the last six or seven weeks.

It is difficult and the work we are doing so far here in Canada is not resolving the problem. Yet

some people are spending a small fortune to go over to Germany, or now to Spain where I believe Kozak has a clinic, and they are getting some relief from this particular problem. We have not dealt with that, and there were days in this House within the last five or six years when, because of the tremendous effect it has on individuals, that was a fairly major issue in this House.

Would one of the government members pray tell me what single initiative the Ministry of Health has taken in regard to this problem? I do not know of an initiative it has taken. We can go after them to see if they will allow up to \$300 a day, as New Brunswick now does, to send somebody over for treatment in Germany. We may be able to win the odd case on it, I am not sure. As I say, I have two or three we are involved in right now and I have not seen that initiative.

I thought one of the Liberal promises was some action in terms of additional dental coverage. I think that needs to be broadened considerably in this province. I guess the answer on this, like so many other things, is going to be the lack of money; but I do not see any new or interesting or exciting initiatives in regard to additional dental coverage in a country as great and as wealthy as ours, in spite of some of the problems we may have. I do not see this happening at all. As I say once again, I think it was one of the initiatives I heard this government talking about before the last election.

The whole question of medical prosthesis is one that still comes up, over certain ages and under certain circumstances. It seems to me that for somebody who has had a pension established or is not able to work or is in a seriously handicapped situation, there should be some kind of automatic response in terms of the need for hearing aids, the need for a change, or a new leg or a socket or the number of different things which happen, where that person is one of the really disadvantaged people in our community. In the last couple of years, there have been some very small movements in that area, but not enough really to make a mark.

It seems to me that this is an area where we—I am sorry the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) has to leave, because about an hour of my remarks are dealing with his ministry. Nevertheless, we will get at him another time; in the estimates, maybe; it seems to me we have not dealt with these areas.

Another issue is acute care. There is not one member in this House who does not recognize

that we have a problem with extended care: the number of people in acute care beds who should not be, who should be in extended care or nursing home beds; the difficulty we have in trying to move them out; the difficulty we have if somebody is in a hospital bed and is a terminal case but has been moved into a nursing home. The situation is so bad: I had one case recently where the person wanted to go back into a hospital but the hospital would not take him, so he was stuck for his remaining days in the establishment he was in.

Maybe, if you want to really swing your weight around with the doctors, you can make some arrangements, but it is not easy. The case is really there and the situation is really there because we do not have the adequate facilities. Sure, other than education, there is nothing like health in terms of the cost to Ontario; but are we always going to measure everything we do in terms of the cost? I recognize that it is important.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: We have to balance the books.

Mr. Mackenzie: We have not been willing to deal with some tax fairness issues, I remind my colleague, that might make it a little easier to deal with issues like this. It seems to me the mark of a really caring, civilized society is how it takes care of the least able, the most disabled or the older people in that country. We have not done the best job in that area.

We have been hearing in this House, over the last few weeks, a real developing concern over the issue of home care and homemakers and some of the arguments that have been made by my colleagues in terms of the wages. There are some who have been working for a number of years who earn even less than \$6, but \$6 to \$6.50 seems to be about the average range if you really have some experience. Was it proper for the Minister of Health to simply say, "Money is the issue," to make a comment like that when we were needling her about it a bit this afternoon, when we have people who do help keep our health care costs down?

That is one of the services, homemaker services, which probably, for the older people—we have a growing older population, and the members are all aware of that—does more to give people some dignity in their last years and to keep them out of institutions which are much more costly than home care. Yet in home care we have difficulty finding enough people to take care of the people who need it and we have, with the people who are doing it, one of the highest turnover rates of any job in this country.

I do not have them before me, but I saw some of the figures just recently on that and it is almost unbelievable. The only occupation I have seen where there was a higher turnover rate was, believe it or not, in Wheel-Trans, the handicapped drivers' program. The turnover there is almost beyond belief if you get the figures over the last two or three years in Metro Toronto.

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This is an area where we are providing a direct, needed service that cuts down on our costs in this province and this country of ours, and we are willing to carry it on the backs, usually, of people who are a little older too—the majority of them in this field are older workers—who are getting usually very few, if any, benefits and \$6 or \$6.50 an hour. Where are our priorities, when we say that this kind of a cost, this kind of a program, this kind of a necessity is one where the dollars to expand it are a heck of a lot more important than seeing that these people are paid even the beginnings of a decent wage?

I look at the need for wheelchair ramps. I was at a meeting of my local stamp club. I do find the odd hour to get out and do some of the things that I like to do as well, and in my community the other night I had a lady in a wheelchair come up to me and tell me about her frustrations in her building in using the wheelchair ramps. They had finally put one in, but they had it controlled so that it was only usable at certain hours and she had to make special arrangements with the caretakers and the owners of the apartment building if she wanted to get down at other than a certain two- or three- or four-hour period a day. They are some of the lucky ones whose building has the facilities.

What have we done in terms of making the services accessible to people who are in wheelchairs? Our record is not one of the very best in the world, let me tell you.

The other thing we have heard a lot about in this House in the last few weeks, and legitimately, is the housing issue. I think rather than go into some of the cases we have had here in the House that we have presented in the last few weeks, I want to go back for just a moment to something that I think Hansard will show I raised a fair amount of concern about. That was the flipping of land in my community. We had two or three cases we documented a number of years ago, and each single flip resulted in a fantastic increase in the price of land.

The real problem in housing, as I think most members will admit if they are serious and will stop and think about it for a moment, has more to

do with land speculation than it does with any other costs. I think the figures are beginning to show that, and I think the cost per lot in Toronto that we were talking about in the past couple of days in this House, \$160,000, tells us very clearly that we have a serious problem in terms of ever being able to provide affordable housing as long as we allow the kind of speculation and the kind of profiteering that goes on in land.

I want to ask all members of this House who will spend even a minute thinking about it to tell me seriously what their priorities are. Does any member really believe that a marketplace system that gives you the right to flip land and make that kind of profit, even if it is only one of the reasons why we cannot provide affordable housing for people, can any member tell me that is legitimate in our society? I do not think so, and maybe that sets me apart from some others and maybe it is one of the reasons I belong to the political party I do.

I sort of like what they now have in Stockholm. They have had a real problem there too. That city is close to 2 million people. I think most members will realize that you cannot and do not purchase the land in Stockholm, it is all leased. It is a policy they have followed for some time now.

I have a suspicion that if we took a look at that approach—and I am not saying that is the only answer either, but there are other places that are looking at different answers to it—we might find not nearly the interest in somebody trying to get hold of that and make their fortune on two or three flips of some land they have been able to pick up.

I think we have to do a lot of things in terms of housing. The speculation tax that we were talking about today is obviously one of the major tools we could use to fight this particular problem, but I happen to think that maybe we should be making a few fundamental changes or looking at some fundamental changes, one of them being that we are not going to allow profiteering and speculation in land, period, when it has an effect on housing.

Other than health and education, what is next most important for most people, and what really do we exist for as a government? I think it is to provide for our people; to provide the best jobs we can, the best care we can for our people. It is to educate them, give them a job, keep them healthy and see that they have housing.

While we have never had the real threat in this country that some other nations may have had in terms of fascist or communist threats to their

governments, let me tell you, one of the things that keeps us separate from many other nations in the world is that we have, up until now, at least put some of our priorities towards seeing that we are enough of an interventionist government, enough of a concerned government, to say that the things I just mentioned, a decent job, health care, education and housing, are really a right of people.

But I also ask all of the members in this House right now to stop and think for a minute. They may not want to, but think for a minute. How many people today, unless there are two working in the family or unless they have some real assistance, in that inflated market in Toronto can afford to go out and buy a house?

It was much easier in my day when I bought my house. It was much easier for me to afford the kind of a price for my house than it is for my kids today. Only one of my gang of six has a house of their own. The only reason they got it was they were lucky enough when they first got married to get into a house that they were able to turn over for a substantially higher price seven years later when they moved up one house. That is the money they used for the next one, otherwise, they have made it very clear, and they have looked at their income, they could not begin to cover the cost of that house they bought about a year ago.

I went out with my wife to a couple of private housing developments in Hamilton. There is nothing under \$100,000. You might find an older, small, used one, but the small, used ones that used to go for about \$40,000 in Hamilton are now \$80,000, \$90,000 or \$100,000. I am talking about the north end and the small houses you would never expect that to be happening to. If you think you are well enough off or you are silly enough that you think that maybe it is time—you know, the empty nest syndrome—to get out of a house because it has too many stairs in it, and get into a single floor plan that the wife and you might enjoy and you take a look at a new house to retire in eventually, and think maybe you can get enough out of your house to really start to cover it and get the kind of things you want in a new house: you ask can you afford it?

I was amazed. I was into the Wellington Chase development. I was into a number of the developments on Hamilton Mountain looking at housing a couple of weekends ago. It was not a real fancy house, but the closest thing in a new house that I could find with a single floor plan, which should be one of the cheaper ones, was

\$157,000. Most of them that we looked at were in the \$170,000 to \$173,000 range.

Mr. Miller: That would buy a whole farm down our way.

Mr. Mackenzie: Fine and dandy, but you are not in Hamilton or Toronto unfortunately.

I am simply saying, how many people find it easy to go out and start in a new home and buy it at that kind of price? Unless we are willing to do something about the speculation and the profiteering on land, and unless we are willing to take a look at some drastic changes, one of which may be leasing and not allow the sale and profiteering on land, we are not likely to really resolve the serious land problem we have.

I will not say too much about the Sunday shopping issue simply because most of us had a chance the other day to speak our few words on it, but on this issue as well I want to make the same appeal that I did to the government members just a week ago. For heaven's sake, there are some of the members—and I have talked to two or three of them, and we have seen the comments in the paper—who are not happy that this is the right route to take. What is it—I guess I am just asking as strongly as I can—what is it that makes this issue so important or so fundamental to the Liberal Party? What makes it so important and so fundamental?

An hon. member: Regional autonomy is the main issue.

Mr. Mackenzie: Politically, I hope the member stays where he is. I am being as blunt and as open as I can when I make these comments because I think they have a loser on the issue. I think it starts to cut some of the sheen from the facade of this government.

But let me simply say that if the government members had any guts and if they wanted to make a name for themselves, if they took an issue like this, unless—if they would give me the fundamental reason, explanation or principle behind it, I might understand it a little better, but unless one of them is willing to do that, tell me what would be so wrong with backing off on this issue? I suspect they would cut the legs out from under a lot of our work in this House. I suspect they would look like a government that was willing to listen, that they were willing to do so in terms of a people issue and something that is not a straight principle issue.

I guess in terms of the small shopkeepers, most do not want the open hours, in the case of the workers they are almost unanimous in not wanting these additional hours, in the case of many of the owners they do not want them. What

is involved? Why can they not take a look at this issue and say "Hey, maybe we can back off." If they cannot back off totally, why do they not say, "OK. Let us leave it till the next session and put it on the back burner for six or eight months and listen to people a little more"?

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You know, I am being straightforward and honest with them on that one. They stand to gain more than they stand to lose, and they will probably do a bit of a job on both opposition parties politically. So why in heaven's name are they so ideologically committed? We were supposed to be the ideologues in this House. Let me tell members, on this issue it is not us, it is those people. I have not had a good reason yet, and I guess that is what concerns me.

Now, they have a cabinet meeting coming up. Some of them can pressure them a bit and say: "Hey, back off this issue. It doesn't make any sense." Do they feel they would be so embarrassed? I do not think so. I think they are going to be more embarrassed if they continue with it.

I will leave it at that, but I really wish they would take another look at this particular issue.

I have not had a chance to talk to my friend and colleague the member for Hamilton Centre as yet, the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms. Oddie Munro), but I saw a piece in the paper where she was announcing or saying something in the Hamilton paper about what a wonderful bicentennial bash we were going to have this year, some time in the next few months.

Let me just put on record very clearly, because it has not been raised, I do not think, up until now, that surely with the problems we have in the inadequacy of some of our pension and health and safety legislation; the problems we have with housing, which are becoming very, very obvious; the problems we have in terms of the needs of people in area after area in our economy, surely we are not going to budget several million dollars for our second bicentennial bash in about three or four years. During the last Tory government there was a big argument over whether they had the right dates or not. We just finished with one. I am telling them right now, talk about the Roman circuses trying to distract the population. If those people are going to spend a pile of money on the second bicentennial bash in Ontario in about two or three years, then they are absolutely nuts, and they certainly will not get much support, I do not think, from opposition members to spend that kind of money on that kind of frivolity when we have already had one in Ontario.

I would ask them, and I hope the Treasurer takes a look at that. When you talk about not having the money, as the Minister of Health was doing a little earlier today, there are some areas in which they had better take a look at what they want to spend what money they do have on.

Let me spend a minute or two also on the shortcomings that we have in the transportation system. I am not going to go into the municipalities' complaints about the money that is needed and about the deterioration of some of our highways. I think they have a legitimate case. We certainly had one of the better cases made before the standing committee on finance and economic affairs of this Legislature on the need for additional funding for upkeep of highways or roads and the problems the municipalities and the counties were having.

But just take a look at one of my favourite saws, and I will admit it is a favourite saw, but a legitimate one. Many members, not just myself, do travel almost every day of the week back and forth between Hamilton and Toronto. Some members go all the way down to the peninsula; some go to Oshawa. They know that we have not only a disaster in the making but a disaster already in place in terms of the traffic load that is on that Queen Elizabeth Way. I do not use Highway 401, but I understand it is just about as bad in the north end of the city.

Surely we must recognize that we have got a situation now where, if you do not leave at the right times; from my house normally it is a 55-minute drive, but I have been two hours and as long as three hours on that particular stretch of the highway. It does not make any sense. It is an area we have to start looking at. It should be one of the biggest priorities in this government.

I am willing to look at any suggestion in that area, but I suspect the only answer that is really going to work is the rapid train system from downtown to downtown between the two cities. I do not know how much of the traffic that would take off the road, but I suspect as much as 10 per cent or 15 per cent if it were rapid and if it were constant.

Sure, that is one hell of a big expenditure; I know it and everybody else knows it. But have they ever thought of trying to twin? I do not think they could do it. The land costs alone would be prohibitive. I do not know how they would get control of the property. Have they ever thought of trying to twin or even add a couple of extra lanes to the Queen Elizabeth Way? And is that really the answer we want in terms of the traffic, the agitation, the additional health problems I

think it causes, the environmental concerns you get when you get that kind of concentration on a highway like that? I do not think it makes sense.

But have we seen any real step up in the move to the rapid transit system into Hamilton and into Oshawa? We hear talk about it. We had as much done by the previous Tory government, which was not a lot, as we have had done by this government since they took office. I am simply saying, why should we be happy with and passing their interim supply when we do not see action on something as important and as vital and already almost a disaster as the Queen Elizabeth Way between the peninsula and Toronto and Highway 401 on to Oshawa?

It does not make sense. That should be a much higher priority, something that should be a priority with some urgency. I guess it is not just a question of priorities, because we can all list our priorities and put them in any kind of order we want, but a priority which means something and has some urgency in terms of dealing with it.

We have a minimum wage problem, as far as I am concerned. For the first time, the National Citizens' Coalition and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business are starting to squawk about not being able to get people unless they pay them more money. Until a few months ago, if you had even talked about a slightly higher wage, you would have been on their hit list for ever and a day. It is interesting that because at the moment the employment situation is a little better and they find that at minimum wage they cannot get the people they need, they recognize there is a problem there.

We cannot have people living at the current minimum wage, which is less than \$10,000 a year, and expect that we are going to get any kudos from anybody. I think it is time we took a look at some alternatives. I do not happen personally to think a guaranteed annual wage is the answer, and I have a lot of reasons for it, but that is not a debate I will get into today. I will get into it if and when this government ever comes forward with any suggestions to deal with the inadequacy of wages for workers.

The government is going to have to look at a formula. It may not ever want to accept ours, which as members know is 65 per cent of the average industrial wage in Ontario. It would put you about or maybe slightly above the poverty line. I am not sure; I have not worked it out for the last year. It is certainly not the fortune people are thinking about, yet it is at least some kind of approach.

The government should come up with its own approach or is it going to come in, in one more year's time, with another 25-cent increase in the minimum wage in Ontario? What is that really going to do and what does that tell anybody about whether that party and that government is really a caring and progressive government? I do not think it says anything about it.

So why do we not take a serious look at something like the minimum wage as dealing with the problem of redistribution, because that is what it is. Our problem is that we have a society that really is looking at production for profit and not for human needs. That is an old socialist saw, I know, but I do not think it has ever changed. I do not think the validity of that kind of argument has changed or is likely to change.

Do we really want to organize our society in Ontario and our jobs and our production and the way we distribute what we can produce in this province, which is probably beyond any other province or country on the face of the earth, do we really want to gear it to what makes the most profit or do we want to gear it to what our people need?

If that is radical and if that is socialist, then I have never hidden from it. There is no question of where I stand on it. But stop and think for a minute. I know many members have small business connections and all the rest of it: what do they think?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We think about Morton Shulman when we think about socialism.

Mr. Mackenzie: Sure, there are all kinds of them in all parties.

Do we take the bottom line as production for profit, the more we can produce the more efficiently for the more profit; or do we take as the bottom line what we are trying to do to see that everybody in our society—not paid the same; I understand the need for initiatives and incentives as much as anybody—has a level below which he is not going to go and has some guarantee that with a little extra effort on his part he can get out of the kind of box he might be in; that in terms of health care, the use of our resources, the use of our highways, the availability of housing, the additional care for people who are really up against it in terms of handicapped people, that their rights to a better shake, to a better deal, are what it is all about in terms of organizing the priorities of the government of Ontario?

Is it so radical or so crazy or so totally out of whack with business to take a look at whether

that might be a little better approach to doing things in Ontario, or is it always impossible because the powers that be and the powers in control are telling the government what to do and it does not dare buck them, because they say: "Hey, that's not the way to do business. It's much better to let the marketplace do business"?

I have to go back once again. We would not have had hydro all over rural Ontario if we had used that approach a good many years ago; but, not under a New Democratic Party government, we decided we had to be, wanted to be and needed to be an interventionist society, that we had to direct that some of the efforts, some of the use of our funds, some of the things we did, were done with the interests of ordinary people in mind.

I have difficulty with how people so quickly get labelled with the ideological labels, or with how the arguments come so fast and furious that somehow you are going to upset the whole community and the whole way we do business, the whole bottom-line, business-oriented, decision-making process in this country if we spend a little more time saying, "Really, it is the people who count."

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Let me take a look for just a minute at our pensions. We have not dealt with minimum wages. We have not yet dealt with the pensions. We have not yet decided whether or not those surplus funds really do belong to workers. I think the government's decision is going to be that they do not. I am sorry to say that and I hope I am wrong on that, but it certainly sounds to me as though that is the way it is coming.

I will not go into a long comment on this, but once again some of the government's own people sat on that select committee on pensions, as I did, in 1979 and 1980, and while we could not reach agreement on the amount of indexing or how we should index pensions, or even if it was something the government should be doing, there was unanimous agreement on that committee, among the Tories as well as the Liberal members, back only some eight or nine years ago, that at least the surpluses that had built up in a fund were, in effect, deferred wages and did belong to the workers.

Where, all of a sudden, did we get the retreat that we have seen in the last two or three years such that, as long as the provisions of that plan are fully funded, that money should go back to the companies? If that is the government's philosophy, I guess that is the government's philosophy. It is certainly not what was pretty

well accepted, certainly not what was believed by those who are involved with workers in negotiating these plans and certainly not the belief we had on the committee. But today we have a government, I am almost certain—and I really hope I am wrong on this one as well—whose decision is going to be that as long as a plan is funded, if that plan has been invested well enough that it makes excess money, that money really does not belong to the workers.

I have extreme difficulty accepting the principle that the Treasurer seems to have accepted right off the bat. That is that it is not really skimming a surplus off the plan if a company decides, as Ontario Hydro has done and as some of the hospital plans are trying to do now, that while the workers may still be making their payments into that plan, if there is a major surplus in that plan the corporation can withhold its contributions to the plan for that year.

I think that is basically and fundamentally dishonest; and it is based, of course, on the fact that there is enough money in the plan to do the funding. But that is not an understanding that was widely held out there, and I do not know how one talks to a Hydro worker and says, "You have to continue your particular contribution to this plan for the coming year but the company does not, because there is enough money in it to more than fund the provisions of that plan."

Whichever side of the issue the government comes down on, I think it has some really serious questions to start asking itself in terms of fairness and what we are doing. Probably the biggest one of all is what we do in the way of the pensions. Local option seems to be a big thing with the Liberal Party today. We can throw all the onus on private industry and say we are going to require that there be certain basic standards, and they will be very minimum standards in private pensions because fewer than a third of the workers in Canada have a private pension.

We can say that and use that approach if we want. I personally do not think it is going to be the answer. What I would much rather see is this government showing some really progressive initiative in this country by saying, as the trade union movement tried to do, I guess a good eight or nine years ago now when it had a major coast-to-coast campaign, "Hey, we have to go back to the federal government." That does not mean they have to carry all of the costs, but what we have to do is reopen the need to substantially improve the public pension plans. Because of portability, because it covers everybody regardless of the province one is in, that is obviously the

best way to deal with an adequate income when somebody finally retires. There are many weaknesses to the private pension plans.

What is causing me the most heartache are the various plant closures at Inglis, Consolidated-Bathurst—which I have mentioned in this House so many times—Arrow Co., Allen Industries, and Firestone Canada Inc. I am not going to go into the figures right now, but already this year—I think we are now up past last year—we are seeing an escalation that should scare the devil out of everybody in terms of plant closures.

What is happening to the workers in those plants? They are losing decent jobs at decent wages, usually after they have worked for a number of years at a later part of their life; and a surprising number of these older workers do not get reaccommodated or find a new job, especially if they have worked for 17, 18 or 20 years in a plant. They have lost that part of their lives that they understood; the job they had, the work they had, which I think is so important to working people. The fact is, they are losing that job and they now have to upgrade their skills or find something new and try to get into the job market, which they have not been in for 20-odd years. What they are losing, and we had better all think about it for a minute, is a substantial chunk of their future.

They are losing the pension they would have accumulated in the last few years of their working lives; a pension that, instead of being \$200 or \$300 a month, if they were in a better plan might very well have been \$500, \$600 or \$700 a month if they had been able to work that last five or seven or 10 years of their working lives.

We are sentencing them, as I have said before, not only to the loss of their jobs and the kind of dignity that goes with that job, but also to a future reduction in their standard of living—a substantial future reduction. That is why I personally believe that the real answer to this has got to be a vast improvement in the total overall public plan.

The fact that this is not Ontario's jurisdiction does not mean that Ontario could not show some progressivity and take the lead in this country, coast to coast, by making that a major campaign, understanding that that would do more to answer the problem than we are able to answer with trying to improve the individual private pension plans, which cover only a third of the workers in Ontario in any event. I ask them, why have we not seen this kind of approach?

Bankruptcy legislation is something that once again is largely federal. We had a committee

from a previous Minister of Labour. I hate to go back this far now. It was Bob Elgie, as a matter of fact—and some of the members who have been in this House as long as I have or longer will remember the debates and the arguments we had with the Tories across the floor of the House on this issue—who said that if we could not get the federal government to move with adequate changes in federal legislation to deal with workers' rights in a bankruptcy, he and his government were prepared to bring in such legislation.

I cannot remember—my memory fails me on this—whether or not this government, in the two and a half years or whatever period we have now had it, has made the same commitment. I was under the impression that we were at least working towards the same aim. I could be wrong on that, but I do not think I am. But I want them to know that it is almost three years since they were elected, and I have not seen anything done that adds to the protection of workers.

This is a small case, but I think it underlines more effectively than I can just exactly the point I am trying to make. Some of the members from parts of Toronto here will know that one of the many plants that has gone out of business and closed down just in recent days is the Trigild copper products plant. It is very small and there are only 13 hourly rated workers in that plant, but I have a series of letters between the union, the employment standards branch, the company, the bankruptcy trustees.

In effect, the problem is that the employees in this plant were given three days' pay in lieu of layoff notice. Under the Employment Standards Act there should have been two weeks' pay in lieu of notice. As members will note in the correspondence, the receivers indicate there will not be any money left after paying off the priority claims, such as those held by the bank. The employment standards branch indicates the same bad news. The workers are not even getting what is required under the law in terms of the two weeks' pay in lieu of notice. They are getting three days in that particular plant. There is a fight going on between them and the ministry and the trustees now, but from the correspondence it looks as if they are probably out of luck.

There are other things that were never paid that are legitimate and legal costs, such as their union dues. I think it will be the last consideration for a 13-employee unit.

I am simply saying that whatever was there is protecting the banks. It sure as blazes is not protecting even the most basic right of those

workers, the right to at least two weeks' pay in lieu of notice.

I could bring in all kinds of examples. That just happens to be one that is current right at this moment, and I use it only to underline an issue. We have brought similar cases before this House time and time again where we have seen, I am sorry to say, absolutely nothing done to come to grips with the problem.

It is pretty obvious that we have not come to grips with it, because the negotiations that I know have gone on with the federal authorities, even with this government, whether it made the commitment or not, have not resulted in changes to the federal legislation that would give workers at least the basic protection in these kinds of benefits that they were owed.

If it has not, why has the government not taken a look at some provincial legislation? It can be done. Unless he was dead wrong, one of the previous ministers of labour, Bob Elgie, made it clear that, while he did not want to go that route, it could be done and he was prepared to do it. Fortunately or unfortunately, and I have feelings both ways on it, he did not stay in the government and that government did not stay in power.

If that was a good idea, why are the Liberals now playing a role even less hopeful or helpful than the Tories played? Why will they not take a look at something that would allow that kind of thing, or do they really believe that the banks should have first priority and, even though the law says they get two weeks' pay, they are going to get only three days and that is quite all right? Is that what the government is saying to us? Is that what he is saying to those workers at Trigild? If it is, we will send them the Hansards and show them very quickly. We will send them the Hansards, anyhow.

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I am simply saying that the minister has not dealt with this problem. He has not tried to deal with this problem. He has not looked at it seriously, at least in so far as anything we have been told, and we keep asking him when he is coming up with new packages of legislation or new things that will protect workers. Where is the protection on something that we have waited for now for years in terms of the basic protection of workers in bankruptcies?

I think the plant closure explosion, and that is what I call it, that we are seeing in recent days is a result, to some extent, of the free trade talks. I have to tell members right off the bat that I would feel much happier if I had a sense that there was a real and permanent commitment on the govern-

ment side to making sure that this agreement did not go through.

I thought one of the most telling comments was one that was made to our committee of 11, and most of them will remember it, by Sam Gibbons in Washington just a week ago when we sat down in his office for almost 40 minutes. He was gracious enough to give us more time than most American congressmen or senators. He has not always been that supportive. He has been supportive of some of the protectionist sentiment. He has been for 20-some years a congressman for the state of Florida. What did he say? He started off by telling us what a wonderful deal this free trade deal was, which made me suspicious. I think every single senator and congressman we talked to on this last trip to Washington said to us what a great deal it was and how beneficial it was for both of our countries.

Then some of us disagreed, and I think I first took him on in terms of the energy part of the package, but the member for Guelph (Mr. Ferraro) and the member for Brantford (Mr. Neumann) did too, as I recall. There were others who raised questions with him about how this was not necessarily such a good deal for Ontario. We went through what we understood as the energy provisions of the agreement. What did he say to us? At first he said, "I don't think that's what the deal really says, does it?"

I do not think he had been that well briefed on any of the details in the agreement. That was his first question. We said, "Well, we sure think it is, and that's the way even our Ministry of Energy has explained it to us in the presentation it made to our committee in the Ontario Legislature." His comment then was, "Well, surely no government would be stupid enough to sign an agreement like that."

Members have 11 people, including two Tories, whom they can ask for the comments that were made by Sam Gibbons when we dealt with the specifics of the energy package.

I heard some even worse comments from some of the other American senators and congressmen about what we are buying. I think I sense a little toughening of the resolve on the part of this government on this free trade issue, but I do not have a sense that it is absolute and that the government is ready to go to the mat on the issue. I think we are really looking at the future of our country.

Why did we have a bill today? I got angry and I should not have blown my stack, but once in a while it gets a little frustrating, when you have

been intimately involved with some of the labour issues, to find that we have some provisions made to cover agricultural workers. Once again, I have nothing to do with farming, but in terms of agricultural workers it is an issue that I can say a fair bit about. I know the fight that the United Food and Commercial Workers went through in Picton, Ontario, after they organized, with 70 or 80 per cent of the workers signed up at the Campbell's mushroom soup plant and the mushroom plant where they had them working on the conveyors. It was a production job where they clocked in and out each day. They had three shifts and everything else, but they were denied the right of a union. Even though they signed up a majority, they could not get certification, because they were classed as agricultural workers, and they are not covered under the Employment Standards Act.

I have had a private members' bill asking for agricultural workers to be covered. I would be perfectly willing to listen to amendments to that bill or to have the government bring in its own bill that took care of their concerns—I do not have the same concerns—with regard to individual workers on farm operations, which I know has been the concern that has been raised by certain people on that issue.

How in blazes does the government allow whole factories to be excluded from any rights simply because they are classed under the act as agricultural workers? I moved the first private member's bill on that about 10 years ago in this House. I have moved it every year since. I have raised it with every Minister of Labour since. One in the House here knows that, in the person of the former Minister of Labour, the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye).

Today we get some provisions to try to protect them a bit on the kind of hours they work and to see that they get statutory holidays. Why in God's name are they not included under the Employment Standards Act? If the government has any opting out to do, it should do it there. Why do we have to try to cover them under something they are probably not going to have because they are not organized, in any event, and cannot organize to effectively look after themselves or to police that particular part of the overtime hours announcement that the minister made today?

It does not make sense. I do not think there are many members in this House who are going to argue with me that what I am saying on that issue does not make sense or is difficult to understand. The point I am making is that we have pushed the

government literally for years on that issue and have got absolutely nowhere. So why all of a sudden should I think it is in my interest to quickly put through interim supply when we have gone a year on this issue without approving or having a chance to develop and debate the individual issues that I have raised here?

My colleague raised the whole issue of Hydro expansion and the nuclear power issue. I was a little surprised at the comments of the Premier on that, because my question right back to him in terms of transporting around nuclear waste, or what they are trying to develop, is that I can recall when it was policy not to further the expansion of nuclear plants in this country. Unless I miss my guess, the growing policy in the United States is not to go ahead with any further nuclear plants and, indeed, to cut back to an extent that we are not doing in Canada. Why? I suspect because they know they will likely be able to buy our power from our nuclear plants.

When you get into the kind of costs where you are talking about \$1 billion for each of the units now in terms of rod replacements twice in their lifetime, not just once; when you look at the fact that to this day we have not come up with a solution to the waste disposal problem and we have no idea what that is going to cost us in the long term; when you look at what we are spending on the development of nuclear plants—Darlington is a perfect example—I have not been on that committee or looked at the actual cost, but I know we are up in the billions on that. When we look at what we are spending and the fact that some other countries, and the US particularly, are cutting back, really who is it that is putting all of their eggs very rapidly in the nuclear basket? Does it make sense?

Are we going to become just a supplier of that raw power with the cost to us? They say it is cheaper. I have never been convinced of that yet, but maybe the verdict is not in on that totally. But when we are seeing the additional cost to upgrade and change the rods in those reactors; when we are looking at the fact that we have not come up with a solution as yet to the cost of disposal of nuclear waste, and at the years and the generations that are going to have to look after that problem in the future, I am suggesting to members that an honest bit of accounting might very well say that the costs here are going to be much higher than what we are led to believe and that the nuclear power option may not be anywhere near the panacea we think it is in this country.

Is there a serious look at that? I do not see it going on in our society. I really have to wonder. I think it is time to take a look at upgrading some of our basic standards. Why are we sitting with only seven paid holidays in Ontario? There are other provinces that do better. Why do we have only two weeks of vacation in this province? There are at least two other provinces that have three or four weeks by law now. Once again, by law in Sweden you have six weeks. It may be after two years, but I think it is one year of employment wherever you are working. Most of the European countries have better holiday provisions than we do in Ontario in terms of mandatory holidays. Why are we so slow in taking a look at not only additional statutory holidays but also additional paid vacation, and why are we so slow in a changing society to take a look at the hours of work, which is really what is crucial to this whole overtime issue? We still have a 48-hour work-week in Ontario. When the government has not even dealt with that, then what we got today was a pile of garbage in terms of the overtime issue that came from the Minister of Labour.

Why do we not have political rights for all of our civil servants, except maybe at the top or deputy minister level? Why did my colleague the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) have to risk his job and have a really difficult time in his first two elections? Because he happened to be an assessor and a government employee. He finally had to take the gamble in terms of running politically. Tell me why or how that is right or how it can be justified in society today. I do not think it can.

I talked earlier about the need for devices and the need for assistance for the handicapped in our society. Why are we in a situation today where the figures have not changed very much? They are slightly better these last two years than they were the first time we raised it, about 1977. It may have been raised many times before that, before my time, but when we raised it in the Labour estimates, we found that almost 85 per cent of those with a serious disability or a handicap were not gainfully employed, and in a matter of six or seven years it had not changed. If that is the case, if we either do not have the will or cannot find the ways to change it through voluntary action, is it not time we took a look at affirmative action? Maybe it is time we take a look at what they have done in Japan and a number of other countries.

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I have to tell members also, very honestly, that many countries honour it more in the breach than

in the fulfilment of it, but there are many where they have specific employment quotas, with a tax-back arrangement if you want to get out of that handicapped provision. Most of them run between one and a half and—the highest I know of—four per cent. What is wrong with saying that a firm has to hire three per cent of the people, and not at giveaway rates but at the going rates, three per cent or three out of 100?

If you are in some kind of heavy industry or some kind of plant where that might really be a difficulty, allow some kind of tax break where that money could be used to assist somebody else who could handle maybe five, six or seven people.

Why do we not take a look at some kind of quota system? I did not start out wedded to that, and I am not to this day. I have just become so frustrated that I do not see any progress in this particular area. I am saying to the members on the Liberal side of the House that unless they just do not consider this a factor at all, and it does not matter that we have tried for 10 or 12 years to get better than the 55 per cent employment rate, why do they not come up with a proposal of their own that makes some specific progress, and see if we cannot get some agreement on it?

I think it has got to be some kind of affirmative action approach, because otherwise I do not think we are going to get to first base.

Interjection: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I want the record to show that was a visitor and not a member.

Mr. Mackenzie: I did not really expect to get the minister clapping for those kinds of things. I suspect they bother him a bit, or he thinks he is really on side on them, but I have never seen his action on them yet. I guess that is my difficulty.

Mr. Pope: Then there is the contracting out he was opposed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am reminded of the contracting out. I was provoked. I should not have even listened to my colleague the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), but he did raise it. I still chuckle to this day about the last election, where some 263 businesses in my riding got a letter from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, signed by John Bulloch himself, and then another one that came to me from Mr. Jim Bennett, who I think is the vice-president of the organization, in which they told these 263 businesses in the Hamilton East riding that they should not be voting for their member, Bob Mackenzie—and they named me—

and that they should understand I had voted against their best interests.

The three issues they raised were my bill on contracting out, the pay equity bill for women, and safety and health votes that I had taken in this House to make healthier and better workplace provisions. Because of those three items being against their interest—this was the Federation of Independent Business—I should be opposed. It was quite a strong letter.

I do not think they expected that I was just not going to take that kind of nonsense. We took it to the labour council and all the local unions, and their first reaction was, "What do you want us to do; picket these businesses in the riding?" They were themselves quite taken aback by it. We said, "No, we do not want to do that." Our own checking found out that over half of them threw it in the garbage and had never even read it to begin with, the letter from their own organization; but a few of them had read it and a few of them were embarrassed when we pointed out, of course, that what they were doing was voting against the interest of almost every worker in my riding if they supported that kind of approach.

I suspect, although I have no way of proving it, that Mr. Bulloch's organization—I raised it with him in one of our committee hearings just recently—has had some feedback on it, although he says he has absolute support of his members on it. When you get that kind of agenda, that kind of approach, in terms of people who try to raise issues that protect workers' rights, and then when we raise these things with the government people and we do not see action on issue after issue I have raised here, I have to ask if they are afraid they might get the same kind of letter from Mr. Bulloch. Has he got a heck of a lot more say than those workers who did not buy his line of reasoning in my riding, did not buy it at all? That was obvious from the results.

I am simply saying that members have to forgive me—I guess that is all I am saying; they can forgive me—for asking why we cannot seem to get the government moving on some of these issues that certainly are of some concern to the working people in Ontario.

I have a lot of other issues I wanted to raise here. I have not got into the comments that are before our standing committee on finance and economic affairs, which maybe we will get a chance to debate at some length in this House, and the kind of recommendations we were trying to push within that committee for reform of taxes and fairness.

But, because I understand there are a couple of my colleagues who also want to make a few remarks, I will consider relinquishing the chair at this point in time and tell members that, under the estimates, I will get the other half of my remarks in as best I can with the appropriate ministries.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak on interim supply.

Mr. Polsinelli: Quite frankly, I am disappointed in the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie). He indicated at the beginning of his speech that he was going to speak for an hour on labour issues and it took him only 55 minutes to cover the full gamut of issues that he wanted to handle.

The member for Hamilton East started his speech by saying that he was not quite sure what he was doing standing on his feet talking about interim supply, about \$9 billion or \$10 billion that the government has already spent. Through the whole of his speech, I think he indicated that he was not even sure we should approve it today, because, if the government has already spent this money, then what is the use of dealing with it after the fact?

I would like to point out to the member that, in fact, what we are talking about in interim supply is not money that has been spent but money that will be spent. We are talking about future spending, money that has to be spent by this government between April 16 and June 30. I am going to give him a couple of examples.

If interim supply is not passed by this House today, we may have a number of programs that are in jeopardy, a number of transfers that are in jeopardy. On Monday, the government is scheduled to make \$31 million available to municipalities in unconditional grants. We are scheduled to make \$140 million in general legislative grants to school boards. We are scheduled to give \$12 million to hospitals for mental health facilities.

These are real payments going to school boards, to municipalities, to hospitals, to people. Because of the lead time that is required to make these payments, if this assembly does not approve the government's authority to spend this money by today, some of these payments may be deferred and there may be real people on the other end expecting to receive these funds.

Mr. Harris: I want to congratulate the member for his remarks today. While I do not quite want to blanket-associate myself with everything he said, I want to say that I thought he spoke very eloquently and put his position forward in a very forthright manner. I understand and am sympathetic to his concern that he has not

had, nor have any members of this chamber had, the appropriate amount of time to look at how the government spends the money that it is going to spend. I believe the member's comments were directed in that way. I do want to ask a couple of questions, though.

I heard the member, at the start of his remarks, talk about the land speculation tax for the city of Toronto and the housing problem. I really do, in a very sincere way—because we are all concerned about the housing problem in Toronto—want to ask a couple of questions.

What concerns me with what is being proposed by the New Democratic Party is that there is a housing problem. One of the symptoms of the housing problem is speculation. The approach the member has come up with to attack the problem is to attack the symptom.

When the member attacks the symptom and not the problem itself, some of the concerns I have are, first, that it was tried once before by my government and did not work. Second, if we do anything to discourage people from being in the housing business or the land business or being active in that field by attacking the symptom, my concern is that we will make the problem itself even worse. Third, I guess I would ask, in sincerity, is the reason the member is proposing this to get more money? Is it a tax increase to get money or is it to try to solve a symptom of a problem that we have in Toronto? I would be interested in the member's view on that in particular.

Mr. Speaker: Do any other members wish to make any comments or questions? If not, the member for Hamilton East may wish to respond for up to two minutes.

Mr. Mackenzie: Two minutes does not give me very much time, and I want to deal for a minute or two with the comments of the member for Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli).

Just briefly, in terms of the land speculation tax, I think part of the problem with his government's proposal was the provisions and the way it was written, as we have said very clearly. I do not think anybody should be allowed to profit more than once in terms of a flip of a piece of property unless he has held it for a number of years and used it for a number of years.

I think also, as he will recognize, I have made it very clear that I think you go beyond just the profiteering. If he takes a look also at the cost of land, that may mean leasing rather than sale, which would take it out of the profitability factor, and I know he and I are going to differ

fundamentally in philosophy on whether or not the profit that can be there in housing is something that is good for our society. I do not believe it is.

That is not a full answer, but maybe some of our other colleagues will get back to him on it.

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I want to say to the member for Yorkview, fairly simply and straightforwardly, that he knows very clearly we have not had a chance through the estimates to question the previous expenditures of these ministries in recent months. He knows as well that we are spending on programs—and maybe a member cannot do a good job in the estimates but it is one of the things you try to do—and we have not had a chance to question these various programs. It does not matter whether he is talking about what we have already spent or what we are now spending; it is money that is already locked into programs that we have had no input into whatsoever.

The unfortunate thing today with this government, the change that has come about since the majority, is that it is pretty obvious the government is not really interested in the kind of communication and co-operation that was there before. I understand it. They have the majority and do not need it now.

The fact is that we are dealing with something that we have no input in and no challenge to. That is exactly why I say—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Mackenzie: —it really does not make a lot of sense to be involved in this debate.

Miss Martel: I am pleased to participate in the debate this afternoon. I am just sorry, as my colleague from Hamilton is, that the Minister of Labour chose to leave, because I am going to focus attention on his ministry and an institution that is under his responsibility, an institution we all know and love in this House, I am sure: the Workers' Compensation Board. I see some Liberals here who on many occasions have mentioned to me some of the specific problems they are having with the board and I hope they will have the same sentiments that I do in terms of this institution.

First, the minister last week made a statement concerning the report of the Ontario task force on vocational rehabilitation. That will be the document I am going to focus my remarks on. I want to say, though, that in his rather flimsy document he made a comment that the minister and the ministry, this government and the WCB itself,

shared an underlying principle of the compensation system, and that is that all three believe it is a system which is "sensitive, humane, rational and efficient."

I must say I was amazed, quite frankly, to hear the minister say that, because for those of us who have to deal with this institution on a daily basis—and in my office we do, and much against our better judgement—it is anything but a system that is sensitive, humane, rational or efficient.

I want to say that since this seems to be a priority and a commitment of this government and it is supporting this underlying principle of the compensation system, then I also assume that this minister is going to recognize his responsibility to workers in Ontario as far as the Workers' Compensation Board is concerned. It must also mean, if he made this grand statement in the Legislature last week, he is concerned that if those principles which he says he is committed to and which this government is committed to are not indeed upheld or carried out, then he is going to intervene into that system to ensure that they will be.

I must say that when he brought forward his statement concerning the report of the Ontario task force on vocational rehabilitation, I was absolutely appalled by the statement he made concerning that very, very important document, concerning how the system of rehabilitation under the Workers' Compensation Board is in fact run. For those of us who sit back here who have to deal with the board again and again and who are most frustrated by it, it was really difficult to take a look at that as his response to an extremely important document. Here it is, triple-spaced half-pages; all of two paragraphs concerning the rehab system itself.

I was amazed; quite frankly, I was appalled. If that is the response by this minister and this government, then we have some definite problems that are going to continue under the workers' compensation system in this province.

Most of the members in the House are going to know that the task force itself was established in 1986 to look at some of the problems, to carefully review rehab services being offered by the WCB to injured workers. The task force reported in September 1987 in a report which confirmed what most of us already knew, but in fact what we also discovered was that it was far more condemnatory than most of us had ever expected. The performance by the board in providing "quality rehab services" in Ontario is absolutely dismal. The performance is completely inade-

quate, and it lacks any compassion or sensitivity to injured workers or their families.

I have to say that the conclusion reached by the task force in its final statement really sums it up. I know my leader quoted it in his response, but I am going to quote it again for the members in this House. The task force concluded by saying:

"The experience of the task force in the past year was long, painful, and emotionally wrenching. The tales of injustice, neglect and rejection recounted by the injured workers throughout the province were so harrowing as to leave the task force members disgusted and frustrated." The WCB "has failed to recognize the emergence of a society that is more understanding of the needs of the disabled. It has failed to become responsive to the fact that hundreds of thousands of workers have become partially or totally disabled in the past years and that society could not reject or ignore them."

Those are some pretty strong words by a group that spent over a year studying the system, looking into it, talking to injured workers, talking to rehab counsellors and trying to make some sense out of the whole system. I must say that when they point out that the system is completely unresponsive to workers or their families, then we have some definite problems in this system that it does not appear this minister is willing to look after or try to make changes to.

I repeat again, I was amazed that the minister even had the audacity to stand up in this House and to present a report which, in my opinion, is worse than garbage.

It reminds me of this latest report that the board actually put out yesterday as its response to the Majesky report and was much of the same garbage we have seen from it in a number of other programs. In fact, when I went through it, they are talking about some of the recommendations that they are now going to implement. If you read through it and if you know anything about the board, and I do know a little bit, having worked there, this does nothing to change the rehab system.

The problem is, the system that is in place is not working. What this does is reaffirm the board's commitment to try to put a system that is out of control back in place. It does nothing concerning the recommendations in many ways made by the Majesky committee.

There are over 84 recommendations listed in this report as to how the ministry could make changes, changes that are needed in the system, and I did not hear the minister say one thing about what kind of changes were going to be coming

forward from his ministry—not a word. He said there was much to be done. He gave us no idea of what he was going to do.

He then had the audacity also to say that the board was moving in the right direction. I tell you, as someone who has to deal with this and with injured workers every day, that had to be the biggest and probably the cruelest joke I have heard in a long time. This rehab system is doing nothing to respond to workers, and I was appalled that he actually stood in the House and said that.

Before I get into the particulars of the Majesky report and some of the fundamental issues that it raised and some of the changes it believes have to made, I want to just quote the board policy on vocational rehabilitation and some of the points that the board makes concerning this policy and how it should be rendered in Ontario.

Let me give members an idea of how the board defines "rehabilitation services." It is important that they understand these, because I am going to contrast them to what the task force actually found in terms of the same type of definition and objectives.

The board says, in terms of the definition of rehab: "A very acceptable but sweeping definition of 'rehabilitation' in the broad sense is that it is the cultivation, restoration and conservation of human resources, assisting those who are handicapped by disease, disability or social maladjustment to achieve a state of maximum wellbeing."

Some nice words. I do not know if many of the injured workers out there would understand it. People working at the board cannot understand it. There is not a lot of substance behind the words, as members will see when I get into the report that the task force made.

I want to point out, second, the objectives, because I think members are going to note that the objectives in this regard are indeed not being met under the present system and the task force has confirmed that. Let me read them anyway.

The objectives, under board policy, are these: "(1) to develop and promote understanding and the active participation of industry, unions, treatment agencies, the medical profession, government agencies and ministries, community groups and the public at large in the vocational rehabilitation process; (2) to maintain progressive and responsive vocational rehabilitation services; and (3) to undertake the responsibility of helping the industrially injured worker to help himself or herself toward the restoration of renewed confidence, independence and the achievement of self-realization."

Those are the board's guidelines concerning rehab. I now want to compare those to some of the main points of the Majesky report which, indeed, outline the failings of the WCB under this system.

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First of all, I want to look at what is the philosophy of the rehab policy, and I am going to compare it to the board's guidelines. If we look at the intent of the act in 1914 when the system was established, it was to provide no-fault financial compensation to injured workers in order to save against possible litigation by either employers or employees. There was little rehab offered in the system at that time in order to pull a life together, a life that had been affected by a traumatic or serious injury. The report stated, and the task force confirmed, that this 1914 model is still driving the rehabilitation system today. Not only is it driving the board policy in terms of claims adjudication; it is driving the rehab policy.

The report said that this 1914 model is based on four principles. The first is: "Rehabilitation services to workers injured on the job in Ontario are offered only as a last resort." That means, of course, that if you are hurt on the job and if you perhaps cannot return to your employment, it does not necessarily guarantee rehab services in Ontario. That is up to the claims adjudicator and it is up to the ability of the worker to, in quotes, co-operate, and to want to participate in a retraining program or to want to participate in rehab. But it is not offered to all workers injured in Ontario. Indeed, the criteria in order to obtain rehab services are very vague.

Furthermore, the other problem I noticed, in the Sudbury regional office in particular, is that it is difficult to get across to workers what is expected of them if they want to participate in rehab and what kind of job they can return to, because for the most part if they were involved in the mining industry at all, they cannot return to that industry. The services are limited in this regard and they are offered very much as a last resort, as a cost-saving mechanism by the Workers' Compensation Board. I think that is an unfortunate situation. It is a terrible way to treat people who have been injured in this province.

The second principle that is driving the board in this model at this point is: "The definition of rehabilitation is restricted to medical and vocational rehabilitation" only. There is no regard at this point in time under the system for any of the emotional, personal or social trauma that workers go through when they are hurt in this province. There is no response to their families,

who suddenly have their whole source of livelihood cut off, who are ill and do not have treatment for months at a time. There is nothing that responds to that kind of trauma.

The board's rehab policy is directed to two things: to get the doctor to say the worker is fit for some type of modified work and to get the board to look at what kind of modified work the worker might go back to, if indeed the employer cannot take him. If he is lucky enough to get into a program where the rehab counsellor is trying to find some alternative or modified work, then it is very unlikely that if the worker does not co-operate, does not take the first job that comes along, he will be offered services again.

That is the sum total of what kind of rehab is offered to people in this province. To people whose lives have been upset, who have experienced a major upheaval because of a serious injury, this is a totally inadequate response, a totally inadequate way to bring their lives back together and to get them back into the workforce, if indeed that can be done.

The third rehab principle the board is operating under is: "Only job placement is acceptable as a successful outcome of rehabilitation." If you cannot go back to a job, then the board will not consider you for any further rehabilitation. I go back to the point that the rehabilitation is not total. There is no look at psychological problems that may result, no trying to give any kind of social work assistance so that people can deal with the changes that come into their lives, so that they can deal with their families and their families can deal with the emotional problems surrounding a serious injury.

In this regard, rehab does not look at that kind of training or assistance. The medium, the measurement of success, is getting that worker back to a job as soon as possible, getting him off your case load and going from there. It does not matter that most of the people who go through the system are off injured again six months later because they were never fit to be in that job in the first place; that does not matter. "If we can close it down and get rid of it, that is one less case to worry about."

I must say that on the other side of it, because I deal very well with the rehab counsellors in Sudbury, the other major problem they face is that the case loads are out of control. They are so high that the counsellors cannot deal adequately with people. They now see people once on an eight-week basis. Once every eight weeks, they are able to bring their workers in and see how they are progressing, if they are out looking

actively for jobs and what kind of success they have had in that. They cannot deal adequately with people. It is extremely frustrating for them, it is extremely frustrating for us and it is terrible for the workers who are caught in the middle of that situation.

The fourth and last principle—which I can relate to, having been an employee at the WCB—is: “Paperwork is more important than people work.” If there was ever a system that is out of control and that has to be brought quickly into line, it has to be this one. You can go far beyond the rehabilitation principle and look at what is happening in claims adjudication and in the health care end of it. The paperwork is absolutely phenomenal. It is no wonder to me at all that the doctors providing medical services do not want to deal with the board.

For those of us who had to sit on the other end of it and fill out the paperwork, it went on and on and the backlog went on and on. You could never get to the top of it and you could never get your head above it the whole time. In fact, the whole time I worked there I was never caught up. It was the most frustrating thing for me and it was the most frustrating thing for the workers I had to deal with. That principle not only drives the rehab policy; it also drives all of the policy at the board.

I want to go back and compare those four principles with what I said originally about the objectives of rehab, which was to promote understanding and active participation of the community in the rehab process, to maintain progressive and responsive rehab services and, finally, to undertake the responsibility of helping the injured worker to renew himself and to achieve independence and self-realization. If these are the four principles that are driving that system, then it is no wonder we have a problem out there and it is no wonder injured workers are not getting rehab services and are not getting back to work in this province.

The second major area that the task force centred on was that of who was actually receiving rehabilitation services in this province and those people who are fortunate enough to get in. What kind of class of people are we dealing with and what is the likelihood of their ever being employed again in Ontario? The first problem is that the board commits such a pittance to vocational rehab in this province that this itself undermines the number of people who can be served under the program.

In fact, if I go back to figures from 1986 that were provided from the task force, members will

see that the WCB assigned 3.3 per cent, or \$24 million of its total budget, to rehabilitation in 1986. Contrary to that, there were 426,880 claims in 1985, a 9.6 per cent increase in serious injuries in 1986 as compared to 1985, and the number of those has increased by another 7.9 per cent. On the one hand, we have people suffering from serious injuries or injuries that keep them off work for an extended period of time increasing dramatically across the province in all areas and, on the other hand, we have a budget from the WCB for rehab to respond to those people which is a disgrace.

The first problem that workers have in the system is that the area is so narrow for them to move into rehab because the funding is just not there. The board has to get into its head that it will have to make a complete overhaul of where it is spending its money and put it where, in many areas, it is needed most, that is, in sensitive and realistic means to get people back to work, if indeed they can return to work.

The people in rehab at this point in time are usually males in their mid-40s, with lower levels of education. They have problems with English as a first language and most of them have always been involved in labour-intensive jobs. By far the vast majority are suffering from severe back injuries. They have probably been on compensation on more than one occasion, probably three or four times, and they probably have three and four back claims. They may or may not be receiving a pension. The type of modified job they can return to includes, under doctor's authorization, no prolonged lifting, no prolonged bending, no prolonged walking, no lifting over five kilograms.

Their story is very similar in many cases, and we saw it in Sudbury. The first time most of these people ever came into contact with rehabilitation services was 18 months on average after their injury: 18 months before they were even assigned to a rehab counsellor to help get them back or at least start to look for a job in the community again.

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Most of them, by far the greater number with serious back injuries, had been to Downsview, that other horror story that goes on and on. Anyone who has been there, in terms of the workers we dealt with, said they came out of there in worse shape than when they went in. I will not go into Downsview, but most of them have been there. What is happening at Downsview is that the orthopaedic specialists there are overruling the specialist report from these

people's own family doctor who treats them and sees them on a regular basis. They go down to Downsview, where the doctors run a few tests, and suddenly they are fit for modified work.

There is something wrong with a system where the injured worker's own family physician, his own specialist's report and diagnosis count for nothing in this system. It is no wonder people who go to Downsview are frustrated. It is no wonder that MPPs and people who have to deal with the system are frustrated. There is something very wrong.

Let me go on to their story. They are unlikely in many cases to receive any kind of retraining from the board. In fact, what we have seen happening is that less than a quarter of all the referrals to rehab services in the last five years have had a chance to participate in retraining programs. We have people in there who, due to the nature of their back injury—and in many cases the back injury is the major problem—can never return to their former employment. We cannot put these people in a modified job in the mining industry because there is no modified work in the mining industry. But the board does not want to offer them retraining. We are sitting with people 40 years old, who have at least another 25 years in the workforce, with no chance of retraining. What do they do? What do we do with these people?

The board's answer has been to try to get them back to the accident employer, to try to get them into low-paying minimum-wage jobs in many cases. "Get rid of them, get them out of sight. If they get hurt, we will deal with it again," and they start the circus again and it goes on and on. We have people in my office again and again who have been on benefits four and five times and every time when we get back to the point of rehabilitation, the board refuses to consider retraining as an option, to put them into either a desk job or some type of job that they can adequately handle.

I will give an example. I do not want to use any names. I have several cases I am going to use:

An injured worker, first injured in 1980, foot injury: He is in the position that the foot was almost amputated at one time. He also has a serious back injury. When this gentleman was first hurt in 1980 under the back claim—it was only the back claim at that time—he wanted to go back to school and the board said, "No, we will put him back underground," which is where he was hurt in the first place. He went back underground and, four years later, he suffered a serious back injury.

They took him out again and he was on benefits for a number of months under the back claim. The foot is still bad at this time, and he has a 25 per cent pension for the foot. Anyone who knows about the meat chart at the WCB knows that is fairly significant. He recovered from the back injury. He now has a back injury and a severe foot injury, and we asked for retraining. Actually, my predecessor asked for retraining. The board said no and the board found him a modified job. Modified? He was moving crates and huge boxes off the back of a truck. No dolly, no cart; he was moving them by hand. This is the board's idea of modified work. The guy was off again within two weeks and has not been back since.

We are getting to the point now that we got him off. We went back to the board. The guy is 40 years old now so he has a long way to go before he is going to be able to retire. Certainly his pension from the WCB is not enough to live on. We all know that. So we are now in the position that we want some formal training for this gentleman. Send him back to school and put him in another position so that he can find a job that is suited to his injuries and he can provide a useful service both to himself and to his family back in the community, which is what he wants to do.

This is a gentleman who is highly motivated. He also has some serious injuries. Now we are waiting because the board would like to send him back but is not sure. We are hoping that they are going to consider school but we do not have a definite answer on that yet. That is the kind of thing that is happening out there to workers in this province.

The task force also raised a very important question about who is not receiving rehab. In 1986 alone, 41 per cent of all cases were referred to vocational rehab. All the cases were closed and were marked "No further action." Of that 41 per cent—and we take away those where people recovered and returned to their jobs or the cases where some of them had died—a full 33 per cent of those closures were due to the fact that the counsellor declared that the injured worker was unco-operative with rehab, did not want to work with rehab, did not want to go back to work, did not want to participate fully in finding a job he was suited to that enabled him to return to the workforce.

A full 33 per cent, and I say the problem with "unco-operative" is that it is extremely subjective. It is based on the counsellor's determination of "co-operative." It rarely takes into account whether the gentleman can actually meet the job

qualifications. What are his restrictions? Can we find anything that meets those restrictions? Is it realistic? Is the job demeaning? Is it too demanding? We have all kinds of those cases where it is closed down because the counsellor decides this man does not want to co-operate.

Let me mention some of the reasons. I will give two cases in particular that we are dealing with in our office, cases where the worker was cut off benefits after working with rehab because he was unco-operative.

The first case involves a gentleman in his mid-30s. His injury happened in a mine shaft. They were going down to the lower levels and the cage immediately stopped. Three of them were thrown to the ground and hit the sides of the cage because it just came to a complete and sudden halt. He has a severe back injury and leg injuries at this point. He has been off for quite some time but the doctor has now given him a list of restrictions, no prolonged lifting, bending, etc., but says he can return to some form of modified work.

The rehab counsellor goes back to the accident employer, which happens to be at Hemlo. Hemlo decides that, yes, it can find a desk job for this gentleman. They are not going to put him back into the mine, which was good for Hemlo. I congratulate them. They are pretty good about taking their people back. The problem is that the gentleman has his family in my riding. He is going to have to drive back and forth from Hemlo every week. This man knows and his specialist says that he cannot be sitting in a car and driving to Hemlo every week like that. He cannot do it. Physically, he will get out of the car and not be able to walk.

The gentleman tells the rehab counsellor he cannot participate. He cannot go to Hemlo because he cannot do the driving back and forth every week, so he is cut off. In the meantime, because he is highly motivated, he goes and finds a job with an employer who is in a wheelchair and who has his whole shop modified in order to respond to that type of problem—the problem of people who cannot lift, who cannot sit for a long period of time but who can do desk work.

He goes to the board and says: "Look, I have found this job. This employer is willing to take me provided that you provide a supplement for 12 weeks because my wages are going to be much lower than they were." The board says: "No, you had your chance. You could have gone to Hemlo. We had it all set up for you. We did get you a job with the accident employer and you did

not want to take it. You were unco-operative and we are not going to offer you a second chance."

I have to say there is something a little bit wrong with that. We have a guy who is highly motivated, who has a job guaranteed where he does not have the problem of driving back and forth, where he can meet the restrictions that were provided by the doctor and the board says no.

I will give a second problem we had with another injured gentleman, a little bit older this time. He has a severe left foot injury. As a consequence of that injury, he cannot be near cold because the cold both affects his left ankle and goes up into his leg to the point where it almost paralyses movement in the leg. So the board finds him a job at a dairy. He is working on a conveyor belt, so he is sitting down, which is what he should be doing.

But there is a problem; there are two problems in fact. First, he has the fridges just a couple of feet down from him. The temperature is so cold that his foot is starting to freeze during the day as he works in there. Second, he has a left foot injury and the pedal he has to use to make the conveyor belt move is operated by the left foot.

We have a real problem here. We have a job for the gentleman, but no one considered the restrictions that he had in terms of the left foot that he could not use constantly and the problem of the temperature. So he was cut off because he could not do the work and he asked the rehab counsellor to please go in and check out the environment so the board would understand why he was having such a problem.

The rehab counsellor refused and the board refused. It was not until our office called and pointed out how absolutely ridiculous they were being and how ridiculous the situation was that the board finally moved and made the modification so that he uses his pedal with the right foot and he is moved further from the fridges. But the gentleman had to be cut off because he was unco-operative.

Those are only two cases and we have hundreds. My predecessor had hundreds and my colleague the member for Nickel Belt has hundreds in the Sudbury area. It is all the same type of thing again and again. It is awfully frustrating for us and it is frustrating for the people we are trying to deal with.

The end result for these people who do get rehab services is that many end up hurt again because the job is not suited to them, or for those who do not qualify for rehab services because they are unco-operative, the end result is

poverty. We all know they cannot live on pensions from the Workers' Compensation Board and those are getting harder and harder to obtain anyway.

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They end up on social services or Canada pension plan if they can actually qualify and be considered totally disabled. The cycle goes on and on and on. What is happening, the reality, is a far cry from the theory of the board.

Let me just point out to you what the theory of the board is in terms of voc rehab. "At the Workers' Compensation Board, our rehabilitation philosophy is predicated on the concept that we see the injured worker settled in the community and employed at the job which is entirely suitable. It is basic that we consider the whole person, that we examine what the disabled person can do rather than what he or she cannot do. This type of evaluation enables the disabled person to ascend the social scale and prevents automatic assignment to a lower status and economic plane. Our belief is that rehabilitation is not complete without employment in a suitable job for which the person is suited."

If there is anything further from the truth, then it was certainly shown in the report of the task force looking into this.

Finally, perhaps I can look at the third area the task force concentrated on. It was the area of why rehabilitation services are failing injured workers in this province. Let me point out to you a number of examples and a number of concerns the task force raised in this regard.

First, they said that the goal the board had set for rehabilitation is all wrong, that the whole model is wrong, that the manner in which the board goes about rehab is all wrong, that re-employment at the place of employment where the worker was injured or at some other type of employment that is almost the same is the whole goal.

The board does not seem to be able to get beyond that, to look at the fact that the total person has to be considered. You have to consider all the effects a serious injury has on him and on his family, but the board chooses again and again to opt for the least costly process of rehab, and that is to try to get the worker back to the former employment. Nine times out of 10 you get him back; he is in there for a couple of months and he is hurt again because he just can no longer do the job because of the injury he has sustained.

Second, there is a large problem in terms of the counsellors dealing with injured workers. The task force noted that rarely did the counsellor

have any kind of academic training, any kind of learning in dealing with people who are disabled or people who have suffered from traumatic injury. As a consequence, it appeared that there was little comprehension on the part of the rehab counsellor to just what actually such an upheaval in someone's life meant, meant to them mentally, meant to them socially, and what kind of effects were on the family.

There was no kind of method for dealing with those types of social problems, with emotional problems, with psychological problems, and in many cases the real problem that happened was that there was a complete lack of communication between the counsellor and the injured worker. In many cases this was because of the fact that there was little sensitivity or little compassion as to what was happening in that injured worker's life.

The third problem—I go back to this; it is a situation we know well in Sudbury at least—is the incredible delay in the ability of the worker to receive rehab services—18 months on average, the task force concluded—18 months before a worker who was injured actually received any type of rehab servicing or was even moved over to the rehab division.

At that point in time, you have a worker who has been off for so long that he is used to being sick and his mind is set in that pattern. Suddenly you get a rehab counsellor who calls and says, "We want to know if you are willing to look for modified work, if you are willing to go out and bang on some doors and find a job that is suited to your requirements, suited to your limitations." No wonder a worker is confused, no wonder he resents that kind of attitude and no wonder he seems reluctant to do that. So the rehab counsellor can say, "Well, this person is unco-operative."

It is 18 months that he has been sick. You cannot just pull someone in off the street, a worker, and say to him, "We think you are ready to look for modified work now, and this is the plan of action and away you go." You cannot deal with people like that; you just cannot. There is something seriously wrong in terms of the whole process of when services are being delivered and who is delivering them and what type of plan is being provided, so that the injured worker can work with a counsellor and work with the medical profession and get back to a job that he can actually perform.

Finally, the task force said that the current services that were being offered by the rehabilitation department focused only on medical and

vocational rehab, that it did not look and does not attempt to look at rehabilitation of the whole person.

I go back to the five points: economically, they are restored to some type of area so that they can be financially sufficient again; there is regard for their emotional problems associated with the accident; there are the social problems associated with that; there are the psychological problems associated with that, and with their families.

The definition has become so narrow in terms of offering only medical and vocational, that is, job-search rehabilitation, that most workers cannot benefit. In fact, the system is not responding to by far the vast majority of workers out there who need adequate rehabilitation in order to return to the workforce.

I have mentioned a bit of the conclusions of the task force, but I want to make another point on what the task force concluded. It concerns the philosophy and their findings in terms of the vocational rehab process. The task force said:

"Clearly the principles underlying the present structure and process must be altered if any significant change is to be made. New principles must be established that reflect a more caring attitude towards, and empathy for, people who are injured on the job or contract an occupation-related disease. The value of human life must be respected and the preservation of an individual's dignity and quality of life must be at the core of our treatment of injured workers in Ontario."

To that end, the task force also went on to present at least 84 recommendations to the Minister of Labour, 84 viable recommendations on how they felt the system could be overhauled and improved and actually respond to injured workers in Ontario.

Those range from a whole restructuring of the system itself to improving the internal communication within the board, which is a major problem within the board for any of those people who have ever worked there, to giving to every injured worker that right of total rehabilitation, rehabilitation provided by a case manager who would be responsible for following that injured worker from the time he was injured to the time he returned to the workforce, if indeed he could return to the workforce.

Much of the problem in the board now is that these people, injured workers, move from adjudicator to rehabilitation counsellor to another adjudicator to 15 different people who do not know their case, and every time they get their case, have to spend weeks on reviewing it again to find out where they are at. It is a frustrating

process because there is no one there the worker can trust, to say: "This person is going to help me. This person is going to be with me and move with me through this injury and help me get back to work." That is not happening at the board.

They also said, in terms of the north, and I point this out in particular, that there had to be decentralization of the rehabilitation services offered. We have a tremendous problem in Sudbury now, that workers who are trying to get into physiotherapy are waiting three and four months at least before they can get any type of physiotherapy at the hospitals.

It is no wonder that people get into their minds that they are sick, because they really cannot get any type of treatment in the case of our own town, and they really cannot get any help from a rehabilitation counsellor because it is 18 months before they are seen at all in that regard.

After reading this report, and this was only the summary itself, and it was horrifying enough, I say there is a real tragedy going on in this province. I must say that the Minister of Labour did not respond in any way, shape or form to this tragedy when he made the statement concerning this report Tuesday last. There is little being done in this province by the Workers' Compensation Board and, and by rehabilitation services in particular, to help workers and to help families to plan some kind of future where they will be productive and be restored.

There is a serious problem in the way and manner in which the board is treating these people, who in many ways need the help most, in order to get them back to work. It has been a failure of the WCB, a failure of the Ministry of Labour which has the responsibility for this mess, and quite frankly of this government to ensure that the principles the minister outlined in his statement Tuesday last, those principles of sensitive, humane, rational and efficient—they have not met this, and the government has not met it and neither has the ministry.

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I want to conclude by reading what I think was the most significant point the task force made, in spite of all the others which were very damning. They concluded by saying this:

"Clearly there are unions, employers and groups of injured workers who have taken a leadership role in attempting to change the system. However, there are far too many who do no more than is required by law.

"Changing a monolithic system such as the WCB requires involvement by caring persons at all levels. But, first of all, it requires the

government to enact new legislation and translate it into change throughout the system."

I hope, for the sake of injured workers in this province, that the Minister of Labour will finally move to do something about this report and to do something about this system, which is completely out of control in this province.

Mr. Hampton: I consider it a privilege to be able to take part in the debate today. I am also pleased to see that the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) is here, because some of my comments are going to be aimed directly at him and to him.

Also, the Treasurer is here. He could benefit from these comments perhaps more than anyone, since he is the person of poor pay and tight purse-strings. So many ministers, when we say, "Look, if you had some money to spend here, you could do something," always answer, "I have to take it up with the Treasurer and there is not much chance." I am glad to see that he is here.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am usually referred to as "That SOB."

Mr. Hampton: Certainly that too, but for today he can be called the minister of poor pay and tight purse-strings.

I want to address, first, the fact that many members of this government are from southern Ontario. They believe, unfortunately, that all parts of Ontario are booming. They believe, unfortunately, that all parts of Ontario have an unemployment rate of four per cent or less. I want them to know that this is definitely not the case. There are all kinds of communities in the northern part of this province that are struggling.

Indeed, yesterday, I put the question to the Treasurer how much money had gone from the softwood lumber export tax to communities like Kapuskasing, Thunder Bay, Keewatin, Hudson and Longlac, all communities that have been hard hit by the softwood lumber export tax. He knows I was not satisfied with his answer and we are going to have an opportunity to talk about it a little later.

The point is that many communities in the northern part of our province face incredible economic difficulties and some of those economic difficulties have to be addressed. I am not talking about a series of megaprojects. I am not talking about the need to invest \$50 million here or \$50 million there. We are not talking about more grants to a Toyota plant or more government grants to a domed stadium. They are not things of that magnitude. They are particular,

specific things that can be done to help the economy of northern Ontario.

Let me give members an example; I think it is probably an example that holds true across much of the northern part of the province. At the very western end of the province, many communities are trying to survive on the basis of the tourism industry. For example, the community of Morrison, Ontario, at the end of a secondary highway, Highway 621, has somewhere in the neighbourhood of 10 tourist camps. They are tourist camps that have traditionally done a good business. They are tourist camps that traditionally employ a number of local people.

The problem all of these tourist camps face is not a failure of the commodities they have to offer in terms of good fishing and hunting. It is not a failure of the accommodations they have to offer. It is a failure of the 31-kilometre secondary highway that leads to those tourist camps. That highway is in such bad shape that many tourist clients are unwilling to travel over it.

It is a very simple thing, I suggest, to apportion funds to fix that kind of secondary highway. We are not talking about the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway. We are not talking about repairing the Trans-Canada Highway from one end of the province to the other or even about doing partial repairs on the Trans-Canada Highway. We are simply talking about small secondary highways that need to be redeveloped.

The example that exists with a highway like Highway 621 is repeated on other highways, such as Highway 613.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You've got the Noden Causeway.

Mr. Hampton: Yes, we do have the Noden Causeway; that is correct, and there are people there who are quite appreciative of it. But I want to tell the minister that the Noden Causeway is 20 years old. If he wants to refer to something that is 20 years old and take credit for it, none of us is going to believe that. He was only a rookie here then when the Noden Causeway came in.

An hon. member: He was on his third term.

Mr. Hampton: He was still a rookie, even though it was his third term. Since I have the attention of the Treasurer, let me tell him that the situation that exists with Highway 621 exists with several other secondary highways. All you have to do is apportion a little bit of money. You would have much better secondary highways and the tourist camps at the end of the road would not be referring to you as the minister of poor pay.

Secondary highways are only one example. Since, as I say, I have the minister's attention, I

want to go over with him a couple of other things.

The Deputy Speaker: The member will address his remarks through the Speaker, of course.

Mr. Hampton: Yes, I will certainly address them through the Speaker to those fellows.

In 1950, large sections of northern Ontario were developed through special hydroelectric developments. The government at that time said there was a need for special funds for hydroelectric development. Indeed, what happened following the building of rural electrical transmission lines was that large areas of rural farm land were settled, and they have gone on to become fairly well developed and economically feasible communities. That was in 1950.

Now we are headed into 1990. If northern Ontario is to develop even further, what is needed is a second attempt at rural electrification, an extension of the rural electrification that took place in the 1950s. If that kind of rural electrification were undertaken, we would see even more farm development. We would probably see greater logging development. We would see even greater tourism development. Even now, there are tourist camps that exist along Highway 11 or Highway 17 that attract a good number of clients and provide a fair amount of employment, and yet they have to do it without the benefit of hydroelectricity.

Again, we are not talking about thousands of kilometres of rural electrification. We are talking about 30 or 40 kilometres on one highway and 50 or 60 kilometres on another section of highway. We are talking about filling in the gaps which have been left from the 1950s development of rural electrification.

There is another example that needs to be addressed, as well. We have said time and time again, particularly to the Treasurer—in fact the Treasurer wrote me a letter during the recent election campaign on the issue of gasoline prices across northern Ontario when I raised with him the whole issue of the disadvantage that occurs to industries in northern Ontario because of the high cost of energy. The Treasurer at that time wrote back and said, “We cannot consider it.” Yes, I want to say to the Treasurer that even he found time during his busy election schedule to write a letter.

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Hon. R. F. Nixon: Did I sign it “Bob”?

Mr. Hampton: Yes, I believe the Treasurer did sign it “Bob,” which struck me. If I knew then what I know now, I would have expected

him to sign it “Minister of Tight Purse-strings.” Then I would have identified him very well.

The point is, and I hope the Treasurer is able at this late hour of the day to take cognizance of this, that all industries across the northern part of the province are disadvantaged by the high cost of gasoline and other forms of energy.

If the Minister of Northern Development and the Treasurer are really interested in seeing enhanced economic development across the northern part of the province, that is another area where even a minor adjustment in gasoline and energy prices would enable all sorts of economic activities to better compete and further develop themselves and further provide greater employment opportunities.

Having said that, I want to move on to some other particular situations that even the Minister of Mines (Mr. Conway) might like to take cognizance of, even though I am not sure the Minister of Mines has any mines in his area. That was one of the things that puzzled me.

He indicates he has one. I have at least four or five and at least four or five that were recently closed. Maybe the Minister of Mines would want to take note of that and become aware of some of those situations.

One mine that is going to close very soon is the base metal mine in Ignace, Ontario. Ignace is a fully developed community. It has a large, integrated school. It has a clinic. It has all kinds of recreational facilities. It has modern, well-developed housing. What is going to happen if we do not find alternative employment for the people who live in that community is that many of them are going to move away, and a lot of public resources are simply going to be wasted or lie there empty.

Meanwhile, a few hundred kilometres to the north in Pickle Lake, several mines are going to open. The community of Pickle Lake does not have the housing resources, the other public resources—things like hospitals—to provide accommodation or services that those mines will require in terms of housing their employees. Those employees are going to have to live somewhere else and are going to have to travel to Pickle Lake.

Why does the minister not approach those mining companies and say to them: “We already have a developed community 300 kilometres south of here. It has an airstrip. We will be happy to try to accommodate you in terms of the transportation of workers in and out.” Why duplicate what has already happened to the community of Ignace? Why not use Ignace as the

jumping-off point for new mining development that is naturally located, to take advantage of what resources and what community assets already exist in the township of Ignace?

Finally, I want to say something which I hope the Minister of Northern Development will take note of once again. This government insists that it wants to promote new types of entrepreneurship across the northern part of the province. It insists it does not want to see government intervention. But the fact of the matter is that there is not the capital in a part of the province which has historically exported all of its capital, in a part of the province where we have historically taken the resources and then sold them off somewhere else and kept the profits either in southern Ontario or outside the country. There is not the capital necessary to finance some of the things that need to take place.

One example of a resource that is probably not being used to its optimum, one example of a resource that could be used to a much greater level, is the wilderness park known as Quetico Provincial Park. Studies indicate that there are all kinds of people who live in cities like Minneapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit or even Toronto or Winnipeg who want to have access to a wilderness park. However, this government spends very little money and very little in terms of resources promoting Quetico park or making the existence of it known to people who live in those kinds of cities or making available to them the kinds of information that exist regarding the park and the kinds of information that would draw people to the park.

Instead what happens is Ontario taxpayers pay for this park. We pay for the people who work in it. We pay for a lot of the services that exist in it and yet most of the people who use the park enter through American entry stations and purchase all of their outfitting supplies through American outfitters. So we have a classic situation. The taxpayers of Ontario pay for the park and entrepreneurs who live in Minnesota derive all the economic benefit from the park.

The Minister of Northern Development will say, "That is something that happened under the ancient regime, the Conservative regime that used to exist here." This regime has been here for three years and it is time that this regime did something about it.

I see I have the attention of the Treasurer. I see he has awakened once again and he says, "What?" I want to say to the Treasurer there are some discreet things that can be done. This summer—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Discretion is not my forte.

Mr. Hampton: Yes, we know that. We know that innovation is not the Treasurer's forte—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I said "discretion."

Mr. Hampton: —and discretion is certainly not his forte either. But there is even time for old dogs to learn new tricks and I expect he will be around here long enough that he will learn a few new tricks.

Interjection.

Mr. Hampton: Yes, he might be.

The fact of the matter is that later this summer a jet aircraft will actually take off every Saturday from Chicago and will fly to Dryden. It will carry a planeload of tourists from Chicago, who will disembark in Dryden and then go on week-long fishing trips. At the end of the week they will come back to Dryden and be flown back to Chicago. It is an innovative way to approach tourists who maybe otherwise would not take the time to come to our part of Ontario and enjoy what we have to offer in terms of resources.

The fact of the matter is the same thing could be undertaken on behalf of the community of Atikokan. There are all kinds of individuals who live in communities like Chicago or Minneapolis or Winnipeg or even Toronto who would in fact enjoy the opportunity to come to a park like Quetico park, who would in fact pay a very fair price to be able to come to a park like Quetico park to enjoy a wilderness holiday. If they could be flown to Atikokan and enter the park through Atikokan instead of entering it through Ely, Minnesota, or International Falls, Minnesota, the economic benefits of that park would accrue to Canadian entrepreneurs and to Canadian outfitters and to Canadian taxpayers rather than to American entrepreneurs and American outfitters.

It is a very simple thing to undertake. It is a very simple thing to do, and yet no initiative has come forward from this government. No intervention has come forward by this government and yet, again, it is not something that would cost the \$50 million that it has to give to Toyota to build a new car plant or the \$50 million that it gives to a domed-stadium consortium to build the new domed stadium. It would not cost anywhere near that. Yet the economic benefits and the meaningfulness of those economic benefits that would come to a community that has 20 per cent unemployment are incredible. The appreciation of that kind of community would also be incredible for that kind of initiative.

1740

Finally, let me give another example of the kinds of initiatives that could be used and could take place to promote enhanced economic development of the northern part of our province. I repeat what this government has said several times: it wants to promote new forms of entrepreneurship in northern Ontario.

There is a young entrepreneur in Atikokan who wants to open a fish farm. In fact, he has taken what I consider to be an excellent conservationist opportunity. He has taken an abandoned open-pit mine that is now filling up with water, he has had it tested and he has been able to conclude that the open-pit mine, which is now essentially a man-made lake, would support fish farming. He is going to make use of a resource that the mining industry has abandoned.

He wants to take some fish and put them in there. In fact, he has located in Manitoba the freshwater institute of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and it has Arctic char which it would be happy to provide him free of cost at this time so that he could transplant the fish immediately.

But he has been told by the Ministry of Natural Resources that he would have to bring the fish—fish that have already been quarantined and certified as being disease-free by the freshwater institute—from outside Winnipeg to southern Ontario and have them quarantined for one year and recertified as being disease-free. If the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) could see his way clear to sweep that bit of what I would call useless bureaucracy out of the way—in other words, sweep aside the repetition of quarantine and certification that the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has already done—that young entrepreneur could get under way this summer and by next spring we would have a harvest of very good Arctic char that he would be able to market.

The market exists. He has already done the market studies. The markets exist in Thunder Bay, in Winnipeg, in Toronto, in several communities and several cities in the United States. So he has done his market study, he has prepared a business plan. All he needs is for the Ministry of Natural Resources to move and to allow him to bring in the fish, a simple request but one that could result in the creation of five or 10 jobs, again, in a community that suffers from a 20 per cent unemployment rate.

That is the simple kind of undertaking that needs to take place, the simple kind of undertaking that could result in a great deal of employ-

ment being created in the northern part of Ontario.

Since we have the attention of the Treasurer and since the Treasurer said in a letter to me during the election campaign that yes, he saw some merit in—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Was that a “Dear Howard” letter?

Mr. Hampton: No, I believe it was addressed, “Dear Mr. Hampton, I understand you are a candidate in this election.” It was addressed that way, to refresh the Treasurer’s memory. He ought to read his own correspondence more often.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It was not addressed to “Householder”?

Mr. Hampton: No, I am sorry, it was not addressed in such a way, although I understand that the Treasurer does quite a lot of householder mail hoping to get the right answers sometimes. He should address me some of his householder mail. I will be happy to provide him with some answers that he might find quite enlightening.

Since we have the attention of the Treasurer and the Treasurer has said at different times that he does not consider the issue of gasoline prices to be worthy of provincial intervention, I wonder if he knows that in the last provincial election, the election of last summer, the Liberal candidates in northwestern Ontario were going to all-candidates meetings and were talking about just that.

They were talking about lower energy prices. They were talking about lower gasoline prices and they were talking about a northern Ontario tax credit, a tax credit for northern Ontario citizens so that if gasoline prices were not lowered and if energy prices generally were not lowered, this northern Ontario tax credit would swing into effect and would provide, in another way, the type of relief that is really necessary if we are concerned about greater economic development in the northern part of the province.

Since the Liberal candidates—a number of whom were not successful, but that is beside the point now—spoke so long and so glowingly of this kind of tax rebate, I want again to say to the Treasurer that we are not forgetting that. Just because some of those Liberal candidates were not elected does not mean that the Treasurer can now forget that those kinds of promises or those kinds of comments were ever made.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I consider the people have spoken.

Mr. Hampton: The Treasurer says that the people have spoken. Indeed, the people have spoken, but that does not relieve the Treasurer of his obligation to at least attempt to live up to the kinds of comments that those Liberal candidates made.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I assure the honourable member that I will do what he said.

Mr. Hampton: The Treasurer is muttering something about assurances. I just want to make sure that I reinforce the message so he does not forget tomorrow about those assurances, because, as we saw yesterday in the House, the Treasurer forgot about how the funds that were collected from the softwood lumber export tax were supposed to be spent, according to the comments of the Minister of Natural Resources and according to the comments of the Premier.

The first priority was to provide adjustment funds for those communities in northern Ontario which suffered as a result of the imposition of the softwood lumber export tax, to provide adjustment funds, to provide retraining funds. To date, those communities have not, as I understand the Treasurer, received any of that money; at least they have not received it in the way that was originally designated.

I want to remind the Treasurer again that those were the kinds of campaign promises that Liberal candidates were making across northern Ontario or at least across northwestern Ontario in the election campaign of last summer, and if the Treasurer is really interested in promoting the enhanced economic development of northern Ontario, he will follow up on some of those promises.

He will follow up on things like devoting some money to enhanced rural electrification. He will follow up on lowering the price of gasoline across the northern part of the province. He will follow up on devoting some funds to the redevelopment of secondary highways across the northern part of the province. Indeed, perhaps the thing to do is to invite the Treasurer to pay a visit to the northwestern part of the province so that we can take him over some of these secondary highways and he can experience that for himself. He can come to know exactly what we talk about when we indicate to him that people are reluctant to go to some of these tourist camps because some of the highways are in such bad shape.

Mr. Haggerty: As bad as southern Ontario.

Mr. Hampton: I say to the honourable member that many of these highways are much worse than in southern Ontario; much, much

worse than in southern Ontario. The sad fact is that so much of the economic activity depends on the state of those secondary highways. That is a really sad state.

I want to conclude by merely reiterating to the Treasurer, to the Minister of Natural Resources and to the Minister of Northern Development that these are not megaprojects. They are small things that can be done that require, I would suggest, a minimum of government intervention and perhaps even a minimum of government innovation, if the Treasurer is worried about that element of it. But if these kinds of things received the due attention that they should have, the Treasurer would see a lowering of the unemployment rate in many communities across the northern part of this province and he would see industries and entrepreneurs who indeed would be able to develop more in terms of the economy of the northern part of the province and who would be very proud to co-operate with him in the enhanced economic development of the northern part of this province.

I invite the Treasurer for a visit. I invite the Minister of Natural Resources. This time he can do more than just fly over, as he did during the election campaign. I invite the Minister of Northern Development.

1750

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I was in your riding more than you in the last four years.

Mr. Hampton: The Minister of Northern Development tries to make a joke. I invite him to visit once again and we will take him to some of those secondary highways so that he can see it for himself and he can see exactly how bad they are and how much attention they need.

If the Minister of Mines wants to come and see things, we invite him too. Since he has only one mine in his community, we will show him a riding that has five or six, and he can indeed then be called the Minister of Mines with some justification.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for the opportunity to address these important issues.

Mr. Speaker: Any comments or questions?

Mr. Cousens: The honourable member did not mention Highway 407. Highway 407 is certainly an important road that we are looking for in South York region. I would be interested if he could do a little bit of research on that one.

Mr. Harris: I am delighted to comment on the member's remarks, particularly as they pertain to northern Ontario. One of the things that we are continually faced with in the north is high

gasoline prices, and I would be interested in the member's reaction.

I have been keeping track of gasoline prices in the last couple of months. I have been to Windsor, where they were about 42 to 43 cents last week. I was in London a few weeks ago; they were around 41, 42 or 43 cents. I have bought gasoline between Toronto and North Bay for 38.8 cents, I believe, about a month ago and then again somewhere around 37 cents. I have seen gasoline posted under 40 cents along that strip just about every trip I have taken between North Bay and Toronto. On average, to be fair, it is around 41, 42 or 43 cents and the average in North Bay over that period was 50 cents. Now it is down to about 48 cents.

I guess I would be interested in what the member thinks of this, because there was \$30 million in a northern heritage fund, and this government could not find one single thing over the last year to spend a single cent on. I mention gasoline prices as one area we have suggested. The Treasurer could have moved to equalize gasoline prices. There was \$30 million that this government got in the forestry tax on softwood lumber that it did not spend one single cent of. While they are dreaming up all these things, they could have spent \$60 million and equalized gasoline prices in the north and the south. I would be interested in what the member has to say on that as it pertains to northern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Any other comments or questions? Treasurer.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Since we are not in any rush, I just want to tell the honourable member that if we are going to compare bad highways, the worst King's highway in the province is in the riding of Brant-Haldimand. If the member can get himself organized to come to the riding, I will take him on a drive over Highway 54 and, in return, I will come up and he can drive me from Fort Frances to Emo. I can assure him that when it comes to potholes and bad alignment and broken edges and no shoulders, I have him beat 10 ways.

He is talking about the costs of gasoline, and this is a matter of concern on all sides, but I was glad to hear the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengary (Mr. Villeneuve), who is always in step with his colleagues, indicating clearly his concern, for example, with the continued use of leaded gas. This was something that really struck me. I have heard members of the New Democratic Party bring to the attention of the honourable Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) as

well that something should be done about the depredation of lead on the environment.

It has to do with the price of gasoline, and it is something of significance that we should be aware of. I just thought the honourable member from the north ought to be aware of that. I suppose the easiest thing in the world to do would be to send a cheque for \$100 to everybody who lived, let us say, north of the district of Nipissing. That is one way, I suppose, to buy some popularity in the north. But far, far better than that is to have a co-ordinated program such as this government has for the improvement of job opportunities in the north, for the improvement of the road system, for moving full-time government jobs into the north, as we have done with a commitment of resources that has been unmatched in the history of Ontario.

Mr. Hampton: I certainly want to take the opportunity to respond very briefly to the Treasurer, to say that everyone acknowledges that the transfer of some government jobs out of Toronto to communities like North Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay is certainly long overdue and it is certainly going to be appreciated by those communities.

But the Treasurer ought to know that northern Ontario is a much larger area than just the communities of North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Thunder Bay, and that doing those kinds of things for those communities leaves out all sorts of communities such as Ear Falls, Ignace, Longlac and Kapuskasing, all sorts of other communities across the northern part of the province that do not need millions of dollars and new government buildings in order to stimulate their local economies. They simply need some very specific, very particular, very well planned types of activities, which I have outlined for the Treasurer today.

I hope that instead of saying he will take credit for what they did two years ago, he will pay attention to what he ought to be doing this year and next year.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I just want to thank the honourable members for their indication of support for interim supply. This gives us \$9.3 billion. I will look after it until after the end of June and I will be back to speak to members then.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the debate. Therefore, the motion before the House is for interim supply. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

[Later]

Hon. R. F. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I neglected to mention that my adviser from Treasury during this debate was Andy Nethery, who is sitting under the gallery. Before members break into applause, he is the director of the financial information and accounting branch. He is, in fact, our chief accountant. He does a marvellous job and has kept us out of the clutches of the Provincial Auditor. Also, he is finishing his active career in the civil service at the end of May and he feels very badly that this is the very last interim supply he is going to be supervising.

We wish him well and thank him very much for his service.

Mr. Speaker: Does the government House leader have any information for the members?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Conway: I would just like to make a brief business statement that might be of interest to the House. The business of the House tomorrow following routine proceedings will be a matter of great interest, I know, to my friends across the way: that is, the House will debate the nonconfidence motion standing in the name of the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

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-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
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 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
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 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
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 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
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 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
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 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
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 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
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 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
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 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
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 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
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 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
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 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
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 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
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 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
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 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
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 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
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Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
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 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
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 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
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 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
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 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
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 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
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 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
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 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Thursday, April 14, 1988



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 14, 1988

The House met at 10:01 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORGAN DONATIONS

DONS D'ORGANES

Mr. Kanter moved resolution 17:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that organ transplants constitute a cost-efficient medical practice that has saved lives and improved the quality of life for thousands of Ontario residents, and recognizing further that hundreds of Ontario residents wait desperately for organs that could give them a second chance at life, physicians should therefore be reminded, through their routine procedures, to consider whether a person who dies in a public hospital is a suitable organ donor and whether it is appropriate to approach the family of the deceased for consent to the transplant of any of the organs of the deceased, therefore the government should amend the regulations under the Public Hospitals Act to require every public hospital to include questions similar to the following in any form required by the hospital to be completed by a physician to record the death of a patient in the hospital:

1. Has the patient been considered as an organ donor?
2. Are the wishes of the patient regarding donation of his or her organs known?
3. Are the wishes of the patient's family regarding the donation of the patient's organs known?
4. (a) Has consent for organ or tissue donation been obtained?
- (b) If so, what organs or tissue have been donated?

Mr. Kanter: I would like to explain this item. It is a resolution asking the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) to amend the regulations to the Public Hospitals Act to implement a procedure which will increase the number of organs donated for transplants in Ontario. Every time a patient is declared dead in an Ontario hospital, the attending physician would record whether that person was a suitable donor. This procedure

is known as recorded consideration. It will help remind doctors to think about organ donation and to approach the families of the deceased, where appropriate, to ask for consent to donate the organs of the deceased.

Many people believe that organ transplants are a novel, experimental, perhaps high-risk procedure. It was only 30 years ago that the first experimental kidney transplant was performed. Many members of the House will recall in South Africa quite a while ago when Dr. Christiaan Barnard transplanted a heart. I can recall, as many members will, that people watched day by day, hour by hour. The operations were experimental, and unfortunately the first recipients of organ transplants did not live for a very long period of time.

We continue to be fascinated by news stories. For example, this week there was a heart transplant done to a 23-month-old baby in London, Ontario, at University Hospital. In fact, I consulted, among others, Dr. Calvin Stiller, who is the director of that multiple-organ transplant unit, in preparing my resolution today. The transplant in London was newsworthy because it was an innovation, but we do not hear as much about other transplants. There were 184 heart transplants performed in Ontario last year, 155 liver transplants, 20 lung transplants, 13 heart and lung, and more than 1,700 kidney transplants performed in Ontario in the past six years.

The reality is that many types of organ transplants have become a relatively routine medical operation, in fact the best treatment for final-stage organ failure. With better surgical procedures and more appropriate matching of donors and recipients and the development of antirejection drugs, such as cyclosporine, organ transplants are very successful. The five-year survival rate for heart transplants exceeds 85 per cent. For kidney transplants it is over 90 per cent. These success rates are better than the results for many other types of surgery done on those same organs.

Organ transplants are cost-effective. In 1985, the Ontario Task Force on Kidney Donations estimated that the cost of treating kidney failure by dialysis each year is about \$40,000. A kidney

transplant costs about \$20,000 with about \$5,000 worth of follow-up care.

We have, with Ontario's multiple-organ retrieval and exchange program, a very good transplant system in Ontario. The Minister of Health recently provided \$3 million for a central computer system which co-ordinates information on organs that are needed or available at Ontario's nine transplant hospitals located in Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, London and Hamilton.

I recently had the very rare privilege of visiting the University Hospital, London, multiple-organ transplant centre. It is a very impressive facility, but the real stars are the patients. I was amazed to see people who had received a heart transplant 10 days before I spoke to them who were in very good health, who were active, who were on treadmills. It was absolutely amazing to me to see the tremendous recovery that these people had made in a very short time. It was a dramatic improvement, a dramatic return to their quality of life. I think that is the real miracle of organ transplants.

I would have to say that my visit to London also had its depressing moments. It is really depressing seeing people who have very little alternative other than to wait, day by day, in very weakened condition, for a donor to become available. I am sure all members of this Legislature agree that these people waiting for organs deserve the same second chance at life as those who have been fortunate enough to receive organ transplants.

I have tried to look at what we can do to help those who are waiting for organs. I think there are basically two things we can do. The first is to increase public awareness of the success of organ transplants and to develop an appreciation among the public for the need for organ donation. There has been quite a lot of work done in this area by the Ministry of Health, the coroner's office, the Ontario Medical Association and a nonprofit organization, Transplant International, and its president, Bill Brady.

Many of the members in the House attended an information session breakfast sponsored by Transplant International for members of the Legislature in December. It was that session that really got me interested in this issue.

Part of this public education must focus on reassuring the public about the stringent safeguards to protect a would-be donor. Under the Human Tissue Gift Act, post mortem organ donations will occur only after a diagnosis of brain death by two physicians who are not

associated with any transplant team. This fact must be made better known to answer the fear people have that doctors will not do everything possible to save a patient before asking his family to donate the deceased's organs.

There are publications, such as *Organ Donation: The Greatest Gift of All*, produced jointly by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of the Solicitor General, that discuss these matters and concerns in an honest and straightforward manner. Most important, this brochure contains an organ donor card similar to the one found on the back of one's driver's licence to encourage everyone to sign the organ donor card and to make his or her wishes known to the family.

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Fortunately, there appears to be considerable public support for the idea of organ donation. A 1984 survey revealed that 66 per cent of people would agree that their organs should be donated after their death. It is also interesting that another statistic in that same survey shows that 88 per cent of the same sample would agree to donate the organs of a family member under appropriate circumstances. This does say something, perhaps, about family relationships or relatives or the old adage, "You can pick your friends but not your relatives," something like that.

However, it does appear that those families who have actually consented to the donation of the organs of a family member are happy to do so. I have heard some of them remark that they are relieved that some good has come out of the circumstances of the death, in some cases a sudden death like a car accident, the tragic death of a loved one.

The second problem in the area of organ transplants, the one I really want to focus on in the rest of my time this morning, is the fact that there are too few organs available for transplant in Ontario and in Canada. Health and Welfare Canada estimates that as of December 1987, 51 people were waiting for new hearts, 12 adults and 11 children required livers and over 1,000 adults and many children in Canada were waiting for new kidneys. These statistics are based on the most-active-transplant list, those individuals who most urgently need transplants to survive. Others could benefit from the procedure or may be able to do so in the near future.

Many potential donors do not become actual donors. Of the 34,000 deaths in public hospitals in Ontario in 1981, about 1,200 were judged to be suitable to be potential donors. Less than 10 per cent of these potential donors, or about 110, became actual donors. The situation has not

improved in recent years. In fact, organ donations dropped last year in Ontario. The task force on kidney donations, an Ontario government task force, concluded that was the result of the reluctance of the medical community to approach families of the deceased in appropriate cases to ask for permission to donate the organs of the deceased.

It is quite understandable to me that many doctors are reluctant to undertake the sensitive task of asking grieving families for organ donations. The improvements in technology which have made transplants so successful technically have caught many people, including most doctors, by surprise. The technology has overtaken the essential social problem of encouraging physicians to ask.

To its credit, the medical profession is beginning to respond to the problem. The Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Hospital Association, has conducted seminars in over 80 hospitals in this province. Topics such as the need for donation, determination of brain death and approaching the families of potential donors are now incorporated into teaching programs in hospitals and medical schools.

The Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation will seek, effective January 1, 1989, to require all hospitals seeking accreditation to have organ donation policies. It is hoped that each hospital will develop organ donation and transplant policies that meet the needs of that hospital and its staff.

In some cases in a hospital it might be a chaplain or a nurse rather than a doctor who discusses organ donation with the family of a potential donor, but no donations will occur unless the attending physician makes the critical decision that a patient who has just died is medically suitable as a potential organ donor.

That is where my proposal for recorded consideration comes in. The same attending physician will have to complete certain routine hospital records immediately upon the death of the individual. I am proposing that the records include a few short questions for the physician to complete. Those are the questions that are found in my resolution, which I read at the beginning of this morning's session. Asking physicians to complete these questions on the routine records which they already complete each time there is a death in a hospital will reinforce the notion that asking for organ donations where appropriate should be routine medical practice, not the

exception in the case of a doctor who is particularly interested in organ transplants.

Hospital organ donation committees should be established and they will benefit from this information recorded by physicians. For the first time, we will be able to assess the effectiveness of various organ donation programs.

Mr. Speaker, you might be interested to know that some hospitals such as University Hospital in London and the Toronto Hospital have already initiated such a procedure. It has been quite effective, but my view is that this problem is province-wide, it is significant, and therefore, if my resolution were adopted, this procedure would be put into effect by regulation throughout the province.

I think this is an idea whose time has come. I think it ought to be hospital policy across the province. The multi-organ retrieval and exchange program has endorsed this proposal. The Ontario Medical Association is studying the proposal as part of its ongoing consultation with the Ministry of Health. The idea is consistent with other initiatives now under way to increase organ donations and I believe it has considerable support because it respects the professionalism and independence of the medical profession and it is based on a voluntary approach.

I am not aware of any other jurisdiction which has adopted this precise approach. Some countries, such as France or Belgium, have adopted an approach known as presumed consent, where it is presumed that the medical profession can take one's organs unless one specifically asks otherwise. I think this approach would be going too far for people in Ontario.

Recorded consideration: I believe this idea has a better chance of working because it is based on co-operation with the medical profession rather than coercion. There appears to be a great deal of goodwill to make this approach work. It is not a panacea to the problem of too few organs, but in conjunction with other initiatives that the Minister of Health and the medical profession are taking—public awareness campaigns, medical education programs, the creation of hospital organ donation committees, improvements in the multi-organ retrieval and exchange program—I believe it will really make a difference.

What kind of difference will it make? To the person waiting for a new heart or kidney, it will make all the difference in the world. I remember very vividly on my visit to University Hospital in London visiting with a woman—she was a middle-aged woman, she had four children, I believe she was from Seaforth, Ontario—whose

condition had deteriorated very substantially. She had very little energy. Basically, she could get up from her bed to a chair, and the only other energy she had, really, was to return from the chair to the bed at the end of the day. That was the only strength she had left in the world. A heart transplant would return her to good health, would return her to her four children. I remember that as a I left the room the woman said to me, "I hope you can do something." She did not know what. She just hoped that I could do something.

I hope that in this modest way this small proposal will do something. I hope it will do something for that woman, for others like her or for some of us who in the future for some reason may be in this situation. I think it is an important problem. I think it is an area where we have to translate our goodwill into action, and I would urge my fellow members on all sides of the House to give this proposal their support.

I found in the preparation for this debate that a number of members on at least our side of the House want to speak to this motion. I would like to yield the rest of my time, and I would also ask that if members on the other side of the House could perhaps be a little briefer in their remarks, we might be able to hear from at least two other members of our caucus who are quite eager to speak to this motion.

The Deputy Speaker: Since we are on the topic of transplants, with all due respect for our old traditional clock, the old clock might be a subject for a transplant in the near future; hence, members will be invited to rely on the electronic clock rather than the traditional clock.

Mr. Reville: I want to congratulate the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Kanter) for putting forward this resolution. Some members will know that the member and I had the pleasure of sharing seats on Toronto council over a number of years and, as I have done, he will soon be getting used to the more restricted opportunities to hold forth in this chamber than there were in that chamber.

I am glad he has chosen this particular topic to speak on today, because we all recognize the importance of the donation of organs and we all, I am sure, are committed to ensuring that the barriers to the donation of organs are broken down. All of us are walking inventories of usable organs and, should something unfortunate happen to us, in fact, we can create a condition where another might live. I know we would all want to do that.

The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick has referred in his remarks to a valuable study done

under the auspices of the previous government. I would invite anyone who is interested to read the study. It is called Organ Donation in the Eighties. The task force in question was in particular respect to kidney donations, but the material herein is applicable to donations of any kind of organs and, in fact, is a very useful survey of the subject at that time. I think there has been some advance since this report was written. The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick wants us to advance further and I think he is absolutely right.

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Incidentally, one of my old colleagues, Dr. Sue Corlett, was one of the consultants on this report and I remember having a number of very passionate discussions with her about the question of organ donation in the early 1980s.

One of the things that would be very useful for us all to do in support of the resolution of the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick would be to take our driver's licences out of our pockets right now and ensure that everybody has filled in the back, which is section 3, "Consent Under the Human Tissue Gift Act." Mine is filled in.

I think the other important thing to do is to take the opportunity, maybe this evening, to go home and sit down and discuss this with our families. It is the sort of thing that in a crisis is sometimes difficult to bring up, but it is also the kind of thing that when you are planning your life and perhaps your death, it is a very important thing to have discussions about beforehand with your family and your family physician so that should you be unfortunate enough to succumb, all of those who are near and dear to you know what your wishes are, to ensure that some of the barriers that have traditionally existed to the timely retrieval of usable organs are broken down.

I want to share with the House a story today, and this is a story that was told by Bill Brady, whom people will know partly from his radio show Brady in the Morning and partly from his work in Transplant International. It is a recent story about a man otherwise in good health, 31 years of age, who suddenly collapsed at work in London and was rushed to hospital. The medical team promptly diagnosed the difficulty as being an aneurysm of the brain.

The man's wife was summoned to the hospital. This was a situation in which the husband and wife had had long discussions about what would happen in this kind of eventuality, an eventuality they of course hoped would never happen. But in this case when it did happen, the wife hurried to the hospital, because she knew that her husband wanted whatever usable organs

that could be determined to be retrieved to be donated. Regrettably, the physicians at the hospital decided that the patient was in fact brain-dead. By the time the wife got there, they had disconnected the life support systems.

The wife was extremely angry. She told the doctors that her husband had signed an organ donor card and his driver's licence to make absolutely sure that another person could benefit from organs he no longer needed. No one bothered to consult the next of kin in time. This is a fairly common happening, I regret to tell the members, and it seems unfortunate that we cannot adequately break down hospital barriers to the timely retrieval and donation of organs.

I do not think it is necessary to speak at length on this matter. I want to applaud the member for bringing forward this resolution and indicate my very strong support therefor.

Mr. Eves: It is my pleasure also to rise this morning and speak in support of this resolution. I congratulate the member on putting forward the resolution. I thought we might talk a little bit about transplant history this morning.

The first organ transplant was performed, as I am sure all members are aware, over 20 years ago in South Africa by Dr. Christiaan Barnard, who transplanted the heart of a 25-year-old woman into a 55-year-old man, who unfortunately died 18 days later of pneumonia.

However, for the 10 years immediately after Dr. Barnard's historic transplant, most transplant patients died. The drugs used to suppress the immune system to keep the patient from rejecting a new organ were leaving the patient defenceless against infections such as pneumonia. With the advent of the drug cyclosporine in the late 1970s and early 1980s, doctors were able to selectively suppress the immune system, warding off infection yet preventing rejection of the organ. With cyclosporine, transplants became a viable medical option. At present, some 80 per cent to 90 per cent of patients are alive one year after their transplant and most have a good chance of living for at least five years.

However, with transplant patients surviving, a new problem arose of where to get healthy organs for all the dying patients who could be given new life with such a transplant. The demand for transplants will continue to increase as organ transplant technology becomes more advanced and more transplants, obviously, are performed. Today, approximately 5,500 heart transplants alone have been performed, 3,300 in the United States and most of them since 1985. After the

United States, Canada, France and Britain are the most active transplant countries.

However, organ donors dropped by some 26 per cent last year. A 1984 provincial task force found that while only 38 per cent of Ontarians sign their driver's licence, 63 per cent said they would donate their organs and 88 per cent said they would donate the organs of a relative. The organ shortage will continue to grow more acute as people start to realize how successful transplants are. Currently, there are hundreds of people who could be saved. For example, Wilbert Keon of the Heart Institute, Ottawa Civic Hospital, has said that some 400,000 people in Canada have failing hearts and could possibly need transplants.

The problem has been identified by many experts and is not so much a problem of not enough donors as of not enough seekers. Understandably, doctors and nurses have been hesitant to approach a grieving family to ask them to donate organs of a loved one. However, it is reported by many in the transplant field that many families are very receptive to organ donation. For many it is a consolation to be able to help someone live and at least give some meaning to a loved one's death.

In 1984, a provincial study found that doctors who make the effort to approach relatives of suitable patients are very likely to be well received. The survey found that only 10 per cent of the families refused such requests for the removal of organs.

There are 2,800 Canadians suffering from liver disease, but only 140 liver transplants are performed yearly. As well, there is a continuing demand for kidney transplants, as well as eye corneas to give sight to the blind.

In one recent case, which I am sure all members are aware of, an Orillia family went ahead with the birth of their daughter Gabriel, even though they knew she had a condition called anencephalia, which meant that she would be born with only a brain stem and no upper brain. Fred and Karen Shouten knew that their baby would die shortly after birth. The Shoutens brought their baby to term so that they could donate her organs so that at least one other child would have a chance to live. Happily, a dying infant of a British Columbia couple received Gabriel's heart and all indications are that he will lead a healthy and normal life. The Shoutens are indeed to be commended for their caring and unselfish act. A side footnote, of course, to this was the recent death of Fred Shouten at age 36 of a heart attack.

Transplant cases such as this have raised a number of ethical questions. For instance, our current definition of death is that as long as a human is breathing on his or her own, he or she is considered to be alive. Anencephalic babies usually die slowly and their organs deteriorate so that when they are finally considered brain-dead it is too late to use them for transplants.

One argument is that such babies should be declared dead while they are still breathing on their own because their condition is incompatible with life. However, this would mean redefining the definition of death and has sparked much debate, not only in the medical community but indeed in the public at large. Another question about transplant ethics arises as to whether or not transplant donations should be voluntary or mandatory. In some countries such as France, doctors remove organs after death on their own accord without permission. In Canada, organ donations are only allowable if the deceased has signed a donor card, such as those on the back of driver's licences, or if relatives have given permission.

In my mind, organ donation should continue to remain completely voluntary, with absolutely no profit motivation. Organ donation should be looked upon as a gift of life. But first we must solve the question of what constitutes death and maintain a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of society.

As I mentioned earlier, many doctors are hesitant to approach a grieving family and broach the question of organ donation. I believe doctors and the medical profession should be encouraged to take a more active role in considering a patient for organ donation. However, in the final analysis it must be left to the doctor's discretion as to whether or not it is appropriate or desirable to approach a particular family. The religious and personal desires and wishes of the family must be taken into account.

In encouraging doctors to participate in organ transplant decisions, we must also continue to encourage the public to look at organ donation as a positive and life-saving act. Signing donor cards and licences and making your wishes known to your family and loved ones are just two ways of promoting this concept.

I congratulate the member on his resolution here this morning. I know there are other members who wish to speak so I will not take up any more allotted time and will be pleased to support the member's resolution.

M. Poirier: J'ai l'honneur d'appuyer mon collègue le député de St. Andrew-St. Patrick (M.

Kanter) dans la présentation de cette résolution, pour plusieurs raisons, dont une en particulier. On se rappellera que, lors du dernier Parlement, j'avais été le parrain du projet de loi 91, une loi pour amender et modifier le Human Tissue Gift Act. Depuis ce temps-là, le gouvernement a aidé à mettre sur pied un système provincial pour s'assurer de la coordination entre ceux qui veulent léguer leurs organes et du tissu, et ceux et celles qui en ont besoin.

J'ai pris la relève du projet de loi 91 de l'honorable Ron Van Horn, qui, lorsqu'il est devenu ministre, comme nous connaissons le Règlement, n'a pu présenter le projet de loi 91, et c'est avec plaisir que j'ai pris sa relève.

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Le système en place est une chaîne excellente, mais il y a un petit problème. Un des maillons de la chaîne est faible. Ce maillon-là, c'est celui qui existe entre la famille du décédé et le médecin qui est sur place, souvent le médecin de famille, le médecin qui a vu aux bons soins de la personne qui vient de décéder; ce lien qui permettrait de compléter la chaîne et d'avoir une chaîne complètement forte de tout point de vue. En dépit de tout ça, c'est le maillon le plus faible.

Nous avons d'excellents systèmes en place: des systèmes locaux et régionaux, un système provincial. Nous avons d'excellents spécialistes – mon collègue conservateur en a mentionné un tantôt, le docteur Wilbert Keon, d'Ottawa – dont la réputation n'est plus à faire. Nous avons des gens prêts à donner leurs organes et du tissu. Cela, les sondages l'ont très bien démontré, et les collègues qui se sont adressés à la Chambre avant moi l'ont bien démontré également.

Nous avons une très longue liste d'attente de gens qui sont au chevet de la mort dans l'attente d'un organe, du tissu pour survivre, pour continuer à vivre. Nous avons aussi l'aspect urgence. On n'a qu'à se mettre dans les souliers de ceux et celles qui sont dans l'attente, dans l'incertitude; dans les souliers des familles de ceux et celles qui sont dans l'attente. On n'a pas besoin d'en dire plus long à ce sujet-là.

Nous avons toutes sortes d'analyses coûts-avantages qui démontrent qu'un système de dons d'organes et de greffes est économiquement viable. Nous avons toutes sortes de chiffres qui démontrent quel est le coût des soins pour ceux qui sont dans l'attente, des soins à long terme, ceux qui ont presque perdu le courage de pouvoir bénéficier d'une greffe qui leur sauverait la vie.

Je crois, à titre de parrain de l'ancien projet de loi 91, qu'il est primordial que tous les députés, mes collègues de tous les partis, appuient très

fortement le projet de loi de mon collègue. C'est une question de vie ou de mort. Les Ontariens et les Ontariennes, les Canadiens et les Canadiennes ont démontré leur volonté. Tout est en place, et mon collègue le député de St. Andrew-St. Patrick est prêt, avec son projet de loi, à réparer ce maillon qui est le plus faible de la chaîne.

J'ai voulu, il m'a invité et ça m'a fait plaisir de l'appuyer. J'espère que M me la Ministre et mes collègues nous appuieront. Je m'en voudrais de ne pas féliciter mon collègue de St. Andrew-St. Patrick de l'excellente initiative de cette résolution, et j'invite mes collègues à l'appuyer. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Mr. Cureatz: I wonder if you would be so kind, Mr. Speaker, or the Clerk, as to indicate the amount of time available, the total time.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, you have nine minutes.

Mr. Cureatz: I know I do, but how much time is totally available for this debate?

The Deputy Speaker: We have until 11:01 a.m. The last person to address the House will be the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick at 10:56 a.m.

Mr. Cureatz: To my colleagues across the House, we have lots of time. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It is a pleasure to be here this morning at private members' hour and to participate in the debate on the resolution of the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick. I might say to him that I specifically asked in caucus to speak to it on two accounts.

The first is because I have got to know the new member a little bit. I am sure as the years progress we will get to know him better, but in terms of my position as the critic for the Solicitor General's office and his position as parliamentary assistant to one of the ministers I am critic for, we have had some dealings; I might add, all amicable.

The second reason I wanted to participate was that I too am interested in this very serious field in terms of transplants, and indeed in terms of people dying. It is a little difficult to make light a topic such as this, but I think in the spirit of investigating the resolution before us, we will do our best to try not at all times to put such a serious tone on the matter but to bring it in light of the context so that people across Ontario would have an appreciation of the kinds of issues we have to face here at Queen's Park.

I might also add, or I should be a little remiss in terms of my support of the resolution, because curiously enough as we all know the process at Queen's Park, albeit this being private members' hour and we trust everyone will selectively determine his support of the resolution according to its merits, the reality is that it does not happen that way. You discuss it in caucus and everyone decides in terms of how it affects the party policy as a resolution or bill is brought forward.

Mr. Callahan: We don't do that.

Mr. Cureatz: Well, the member for Brampton South says that he does not do that.

Mr. Callahan: It is a fact.

Mr. Cureatz: I could almost say he is misleading the House with that statement, but I would never say that.

Mr. Callahan: No, no; we'll invite you to caucus some day. You'll see how things have changed.

Mr. Cureatz: I would be delighted to be invited to the Liberal caucus one day.

Mr. Callahan: Well, come on over right now.

Mr. Cureatz: In any event, I want to say to the honourable member that I should be a little hesitant, because I have some problems with the Minister of Health. She very kindly announced last night, through a letter to my hospital, a capital grant in the amount of \$8.1 million for the expansion of the Bowmanville Memorial Hospital. Coincidentally enough, to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick, she forgot to advise me of the grant after I have spent some six or seven years of hard work trying to ensure that the hospital gets its increase.

You would think, in the name of fairness, after me sitting over there and listening for years to the then Liberal opposition and its criticism of the then Tory front bench for running around the province announcing particular grants without including all members of the Legislature, that there would be a degree of sunshine on the front benches and that they would not play the same games they criticized the Tories for, but lo and behold, they are back at it. They learned well, the Liberals, over in opposition. They really learned well.

Mr. Callahan: Was that criticism appropriate?

Mr. Cureatz: Well, it ties in with the resolution, if we are talking about health problems. I am just saying to the member, notwithstanding my anxiety and disappointment with the Minister of Health, of which he will hear

later from me, I have given serious consideration to the resolution before me, and we will be supporting it because, interestingly enough—and it ties in a little bit—I had introduced a motion for first reading of An Act respecting Living Wills. I know the member for Brampton would be most interested in this, being a learned member of the cloth. The purpose of the bill was to protect from civil liability and disciplinary action doctors and other health care personnel who withhold or cease life-sustaining procedures in accordance with the patient's wishes as set out in a living will.

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This is not an innovative idea. Some of the states of the United States have passed legislation in accordance with the living will. That is not to say that we do not have some difficulties in Ontario. There is an organization called Choice is a Quality of Dying and there was a public forum held at the Royal York Hotel, and there are some concerns about dying with dignity and the problems of a living will.

Notwithstanding that, I think it is an issue, especially in terms of modern-day health care systems. The reality is we will all die eventually, and as a result, we should be putting our minds to that kind of situation because there is that possibility of our lives being prolonged to a greater length because of the present system than normally would be the case. That being as it is, then we should have the opportunity of investigating the alternatives that are available to us as human beings, on whether we want to prolong and face the inevitable sooner or later. We do not have any magic solutions or answers for that in terms of my proposed bill for living wills, but in any event, it is something that we should address.

Likewise, I feel comfortable that honourable member who has brought forward this resolution is attempting not through a dictatorial process to tell the medical community what it should or should not do in terms of transplants, but more as he indicated in his address, he stated that he wanted to have an increase of public awareness of the success of organ transplants and develop an appreciation among the public for the need for organ donation.

I am of the age, as I know he is, that I can think of Christiaan Barnard and the first transplant and the kinds of criticism that he encountered, but the innovativeness of the idea has, of course, now taken hold and we almost take it for granted. But taking it for granted, I say to the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney) does not necessarily mean the general public has an

appreciation across the board of how it should or should not take place, and I think anything that allows the openness, allows some shedding of light into the system so that the medical community would be drawing to its patients' attention—not only the patients' attention; I guess it goes one step beyond that, to relatives and friends of the patient—the possibility of an organ transplant.

I am taking a look at his four points of the resolution:

“1. Has the patient been considered as an organ donor?

“2. Are the wishes of the patient regarding donation of his or her organs known?

“3. Are the wishes of the patient's family regarding the donation of the patient's organs known?

“4(a) Has consent for organ or tissue donation been obtained?

“(b) If so, what organs or tissue have been donated?”

I just quickly spoke to the member before I rose in my place, and he indicated to me—of which I have a copy—what takes place at the University Hospital: notification of death with the inclusion of those kinds of questions.

The problem I do have on a practical basis in terms of the medical profession and the business that they do have in terms of looking after their patients, I can see the system bogging down with another bit of paperwork. I say to the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams), notwithstanding the paperwork, I think it would be worth while to address our attention to this topic so that we could give some encouragement that the donation process should be encouraged.

I can think of Lorne Maeck, a former minister of the crown and a colleague of mine when I was first elected, from the Orillia area, brought in the legislation in terms of the driver's licence, one of the first pieces of private members' legislation that was ever passed in the House, brought in the aspect of the donation card, signing the licence, which I have signed myself, I might add.

There seems to be a gap between that signing and then the real process about organ donation and I have to admit that I think this kind of resolution would fill in that gap a little bit so that there would tend to be a more orderly process and the possibility of ensuring that the adequate organ that needed to be required in another area can be quickly matched up. Anything that can facilitate that process I think would be worth while and notwithstanding the Minister of Health's neglect in advising me of the capital

grant to the Bowmanville Memorial Hospital in my own riding, because I respect the honourable member I will support that resolution.

Mr. Fleet: I rise to support strongly this resolution and I congratulate the honourable member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick for bringing it forward. I also thank the other members from all parties who generously shared the time allotted to them so that I might speak today. Before commenting on this resolution, tradition requires that I digress momentarily.

Although I have spoken in this House on a number of brief occasions, this is my maiden speech. My election as the first-ever Liberal MPP for High Park-Swansea was a tremendous thrill. I will be forever grateful to the people who had faith in me, who worked diligently for me to be nominated and elected, and who voted for me. I will work hard to reward that faith and to serve well the community of High Park-Swansea. I give a special thanks to two individuals who are with us in the lower east gallery. Without their sacrifice, guidance and constant support, I would not be here today. I speak of my parents, Donald Earl Fleet and Olive Patricia Fleet.

We have before us a resolution concerning human organ donation and a standard procedure in public hospitals to encourage such donations. Of all the members in this Legislature, I may have a unique personal perspective not on the facts or the figures or the technical issues but on the human feelings involved. You see, I am a human-tissue recipient. It is not apparent from my appearance nor is it something I consciously think about very often. Perhaps that is part of the miracle. Yet I have somebody else's bone in my body in one of my ankles.

When I was 10 years old, I had an accident. The trauma caused the bone in my left leg to crush part of the bone in my heel, leaving a depression. Dr. Donald Gibson and the staff of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto made a large incision half-way around my ankle and inserted living bone as a graft to fill the space. At that time, my parents were informed that this was the first-ever bone graft using the bone bank at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Since that operation, my life has been as full as anyone's. In athletics I have been active in football, hockey, basketball, baseball, soccer, racquet sports, snow and water skiing, curling, running, swimming, wind surfing and scuba diving. The only sport I have deliberately refrained from is sky diving, to my mother's eternal relief.

Who gave me a chance at life? Dr. Gibson and the medical staff to be sure, but also an unknown donor of a bone. Was that donor a man or a woman? Young or old? What nationality? I will never know, and I can never repay that person. When you receive such a gift you are compelled beyond description of words to give of yourself and to contribute back to society. I believe we have a moral responsibility to one another to participate in our society. In whatever world my donor rests now, he or she must rejoice that such a small but crucial gift yielded a miraculous result.

Currently tissue transplants are so advanced that organs such as kidneys, lungs and hearts can be used routinely if available. The only limitation is the number of donors. Now, the gift of a donor is even greater than before. It is the gift of life.

1050

I repeat the excellent suggestion made a few minutes ago by the honourable member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville). This is an Ontario driver's licence. A donor consent card is attached. For those of you watching on television right now I urge you to take it out, check it, fill it out if you have not already and sign the card. I believe you will find it not only easy, but you will feel good about doing that.

In this House members can do their part by passing this resolution to enhance hospital procedures with potential donors.

I will conclude by recounting memories of over 20 years ago. In preparing this speech, it raised emotions in me that I had not felt in all that time. I recall the pain of the initial injury as well as the pain when lying in the hospital bed. It was hard to sleep at night in the hospital because of the cries of the other children in the room. But the boy in the bed to my right never cried and I soon learned that he was not going to leave the hospital alive.

You are afraid when you are 10 but you do not really know why and you do not know what is going to happen next. Never once in all the time I had the cast on did I let on that I was worried about what it was going to be like when it came off. After two long months the cast did come off.

My mother took me from the hospital to a restaurant so we could celebrate. I had a shoe on my right foot but I remember I could not wear one on my left foot. All I was allowed to wear at that point was a sock. All through the meal I walked around the restaurant with kind of an up-and-down motion because I only had on one shoe. Mostly I was just going around in circles for the pleasure of walking, with a huge grin plastered

on my face. I kept repeating one sentence: "I can walk. I can walk. I can walk." It was such a gift.

I urge all of you to help make such miracles possible.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I will be very brief because I know there are a couple of other members who wish to speak.

I would like to start by saying that I very strongly support the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick on this resolution and congratulate him for bringing it forward.

I took the opportunity to take a look at my driver's licence card and I had not signed the consent form, so I did so and dated it today. I would suggest to the members that maybe we should encourage some of our constituents to take a look at their cards as well.

I would like to point out one concern that I have with the proposed resolution, and that is question 3, "Are the wishes of the patient's family regarding the donation of the patient's organs known?" I wonder if that will create a problem. I fully respect the fact that there are some religions—I believe orthodox Jews—who are very concerned about organ transplants.

I wonder if this would not be a delaying factor in the hospital. It is easy to say you can consult with the family and with the family doctor, but many accidents occur far from home and I am wondering if we could not in some way take a look at this section and see if it could not be addressed so that we would not have good potential organs not being able to be made available to needy people because of that section.

Miss Nicholas: I never thought I would have the opportunity to get up and speak on this particular resolution which my honourable friend has put forward today, but I too have been touched many times by friends who have had transplants.

One that comes particularly to mind at this time was brought to light the first time I ever filled in my driver's licence about eight or 10 years ago when they started putting this on the licence. I remember going to my mom and dad and telling them that I had filled this out and the bit of scepticism they had that I was willing to donate my organs.

One thing in particular though, I did say I would donate all organs except my kidneys because I felt that my kidneys had failed me during my lifetime. And why should I give my kidneys, which I had never been happy with, to someone else?

I soon changed this exception on my form when a dear friend of mine was stuck to a dialysis

machine four hours a day. While other children were out playing and I was swimming and going to school, this person was attached to a dialysis machine each and every day. I know the excitement this person felt when, finally, a kidney became available. Now this person is living a free, happy and fulfilling life going around with this new kidney that someone, luckily enough, had donated with his or her death.

So I, too, want to join in supporting this resolution of my honourable friend. I will support it, as I see many of my fellow colleagues will as well.

The Deputy Speaker: Will the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick please wind up?

Mr. Kanter: Before I comment on some of the comments of members opposite, and they have been very kind in general, I would like to point out to all members of the House the presence of Dr. Calvin Stiller. Dr. Stiller is in the gallery. He is the director of the multiple organ transplant unit at University Hospital in London, Ontario, and has been one of the pioneers in this area.

It was at that hospital that this week's heart transplant into a 23-month-old baby was performed, a first for Ontario and for Canada, and I certainly want to commend him and the work done at his hospital. That was the hospital I visited which gave me much of the inspiration for this resolution, which I am very pleased to hear seems to have the support of all members of the House, at least all of those who have spoken.

I am very pleased that this idea, which I certainly acknowledge, the idea of recorded consideration, which is not original with me, seems to have won approval from all sides of the House. I was particularly touched, as I am sure most members were, by the comments of my colleague the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Fleet) who has had such immediate, personal experience with a transplant, not of an organ, in this case, but of a bone in his ankle. I found that extremely moving, as I am sure all members did.

While all members expressed support in principle for the resolution, for which I am very appreciative, there were several concerns raised. I wish to comment very briefly on those. The member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) was concerned about the additional paperwork created for the medical profession. I was quite conscious of this concern. It seemed that, of the alternatives, it was, quite frankly, the least intrusive into medical practice. It was the least

coercive. It was, quite frankly, a very small increase in paperwork for a very large social and medical benefit. It is my view that incorporating this request into an existing form, a form that doctors already have to fill out at every public hospital in Ontario, is maybe not a perfect way, but the best way of achieving this very desirable social objective.

I want to comment also very briefly on the comments of the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson) who did raise a question about the wishes of the patient's family. It is my view that it is important to consult with the members of a person's family. There are individuals, some of whom are members of various groups—the member opposite mentioned members of the orthodox Jewish faith. I understand Seventh-Day Adventists and some other groups have religious concerns about this procedure. I think those concerns have to be respected. I feel quite strongly about that.

The numbers that I indicated suggest that what we need is not a huge increase in the number of organ donors in Ontario but rather a modest increase which would be of substantial benefit to people involved. The figures that I read, which were provided to me, suggest that there were about 34,000 deaths in Ontario and that we might be looking at a number of potential donors, as high as perhaps 1,200. I think there would be considerable room, if I can phrase it in those terms, for the views of those who do not feel that organ transplants are appropriate. There would be considerable room for their wishes to be scrupulously observed, and I still think—and I am, indeed, quite convinced—that we could solve the problem of the shortages as they now exist and as they might be foreseen in the future.

1100

I want to conclude on a very positive and a very appreciate note. This is not the lightest of subjects, as the member for Durham East said. It is one that is deep and heavy. It is difficult for some members of this House, not only some members of the public, to address. I think it is important, I think it is essential and I think this will be a small step towards adding life to citizens of Ontario, something that we can do in a positive and constructive manner.

I thank members in this House for their support and I ask the Minister of Health to pursue this support by changing the regulation to the Public Hospitals Act as I have requested and as all members of the House have supported.

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND

Miss Martel moved resolution 16:

That, in the opinion of this House, this Legislature condemns the government of Ontario for its failure to establish the northern Ontario heritage fund as outlined in the budget of May 20, 1987, and in the speech from the throne of November 3, 1987; therefore this Legislature strongly urges the government to: immediately establish the northern Ontario heritage fund; ensure that northerners, through committees representing northern communities, labour, native groups, women's groups and local small businesses, control the disbursement of the fund; and provide substantial funding to help ensure long-term economic growth and diversification of the region.

The Deputy Speaker: The honourable member has up to 20 minutes for her presentation and may reserve any portion of it for the windup.

Miss Martel: I do intend to reserve several minutes at the end to respond to colleague's concerns which I am sure will be raised during the course of this debate.

As a new member and as a member from northern Ontario, I am proud to move this resolution in the House today. I should point out to you, Mr. Speaker, and to members of this House that my only regret is that the resolution itself is not half as strong as I originally wanted it to be. Unfortunately, when we sent the original draft to the Clerk's office, it came back and forth several times because I was assured by the Clerk that if I moved with the original wording, I would be quickly ruled out of order here today. So while the resolution does condemn the government, it certainly does not go half as far as I wanted it to go in expressing my outrage at this government for its complete lack of action concerning the northern Ontario heritage fund.

We on this side in the New Democratic Party, and I can assume my colleagues, especially from the north, in the Conservative Party, have waited and watched and wondered when this government was finally going to come good on its commitment to northern Ontario. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, 11 months later, we are still waiting and we are still wondering when this government and when the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) are actually going to establish the fund promised some 11 months ago.

I want to say in particular to the Liberal members that we in the north are not asking for charity. We do not view this fund as once again our hands out at the trough in order to help our economic development. We in the north have particular structural and social problems that are

inherent in northern Ontario which southerners do not experience. We require leadership and we require a fund in order to ensure that we have a pool of money in place that can be used for economic development in northern Ontario. That is why the question of this fund and of the money in the fund is so important to us in the north. That is why I am angry and my colleagues are angry at the inexcusable delay on the part of this government concerning such a fund.

For those new Liberals who are back there—I see a couple of them in the corner over here—who may be under the illusion that the northern Ontario heritage fund was a product of the Liberal front bench—and this is in particular to the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney)—let me assure them that the idea of a fund is neither new nor Liberal. In fact, the idea of a fund is not a creation of the Tory party either. It was in fact—

Mr. Black: Now you are getting negative.

Miss Martel: It gets worse, let me tell the member.

Over a decade ago, during the debate on the bill to establish the Ministry of Northern Affairs, it was the NDP and, in particular, the former MPP for Sudbury East who moved in that debate that a northern Ontario heritage fund be developed. In an amendment to the act, Mr. Martel moved as follows:

“The ministry shall establish a fund, the Northern Ontario Tomorrow Fund, to consist of moneys derived from natural resources taxation or an assessment on the value of all nonrenewable resources extracted in northern Ontario which will be used to guarantee future economic activities.”

Unfortunately, over a decade ago, the Tory party, which was in power at that time, did not see fit to move those amendments to make the Ministry of Northern Affairs stronger and to actually provide a fund in northern Ontario. Let me say for the benefit of the Liberals back there, that the Liberals voted against the amendments too in committee.

This party indeed has talked about this fund for a long time. We have not stopped talking about it. We in this party by nature are a patient group but we have continued to hammer out the theme of the northern Ontario heritage fund, or a tomorrow fund for northern Ontario. Let me tell members why, because it is very important that they understand why we are committed to this.

Those of us who are from the north have watched in resource towns and single-industry towns, every time a problem hits that industry,

there is devastation in single-industry towns. There is massive unemployment which is double and triple that which people in southern Ontario ever experience. There is a massive relocation of entire families to look for work somewhere else and there is a mass exodus of young people who move from northern Ontario to southern Ontario and never return.

After watching that, and some of us have watched it for years, we came to the conclusion that we in northern Ontario needed the economic tools to provide for our own development. We believe that if we are given those economic tools and if they are put into the hands of northerners, we best can provide for stable, long-term economic development and diversification in northern Ontario. I do not think it is too much to ask and it certainly is not charity.

Finally, in recent years, successive governments and some commissions and committees have finally moved and have finally seen the light and have finally seen the benefit of the idea that this party raised over a decade ago. In particular, in 1985 for example, the Tory-appointed Fahlgren Royal Commission on the Northern Environment adopted the idea of a fund for northern Ontario for development.

In 1986, the all-party standing committee on resources development recognized the idea and recommended the same. Also in 1986, the Liberals appointed the Rosehart Advisory Committee on Resource Dependent Communities in Northern Ontario, which my colleague the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) sat on. The Rosehart commission looked at problems in northern Ontario, in particular single-industry towns, and it made this recommendation.

I am sorry the Minister of Northern Development is not here, because last week he was off on a tangent about how wonderful the funds in northern Ontario were at present and how we had benefited from all these wonderful funding programs in the north. Let me tell members what the Rosehart commission said about all the great programs in the north at present. The commission said this:

“At the present time a variety of government programs exist both federally and in Ontario that can be used to stimulate development of new business and industry. Such initiatives, although laudable, have failed to create a significant long-term focus for development in the north. It is the belief of the committee that the opportunity exists and the political will is present in Ontario to provide such a focus for development.” I do

not know about the political will, but we certainly know that the need exists.

The Rosehart commission went on to recommend a second thing, one of its many major recommendations and one very important for us in the north. That was: "That there be established a northern Ontario fund for northern Ontario." That says it all. We have had successive governments look at it since the NDP introduced the idea. We have had successive commissions and committees who have looked at it. Finally, Rosehart pointed out that it had to be done because the programs that were in place were not working and were not serving northerners.

On the basis of that, a former NDP MPP, this time the member for Port Arthur, moved in a resolution in this House in November 1986, that the government move to establish a northern Ontario economic diversification fund. Mr. Foulds moved its creation and he said at the time, and I quote, "The moneys to establish the fund would come from a consolidation of existing northern development funds and programs and, in addition, through an earmarked percentage of provincial revenue from resource industry taxation."

I want to point out to the new members who are here that the resolution passed, and it passed unanimously, in November 1986. A year and a half later, we are still waiting for the government to come clean on its commitment in terms of this fund.

1110

Mr. Black: In the fullness of time.

Miss Martel: Well, we could go on for ever. What we are waiting for is another election.

I have reviewed the history of the fund to point out to members here and to prove that we in the north have really waited a long time for this initiative. Our patience continues to hold. I said before we are a patient lot but, quite frankly, the fiasco surrounding this fund has got completely out of control, and I do not see why we in the north should have to be patient much longer.

I want to continue because the members should recognize this fact. The new members would not have been here but the old members will recognize this next portion that I want to quote from concerning the fund. It is this:

"For decades, many northerners have believed that a larger share of revenue derived from their resource heritage should flow back into the region.

"We are establishing a northern Ontario heritage fund to help ensure long-term economic growth and diversification in the region. The

fund will have an initial allocation of \$30 million.

"The heritage fund will operate under the guidance of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. He will be assisted in his decisions by a heritage fund advisory council with representatives from each of the northern development councils."

This is not another example of Liberal rhetoric. This is in fact the budget of May 1987. I ask the Liberal back-benchers, are we on this side not to believe that when their government commits money to and announces a program, that indeed is what it is going to do, and in the near future, not 11 months, 12 months, 13 months down the road? I say to the Liberal back-benchers again, is it not unfortunate that the government was unwilling or unable to establish the fund before the September 1987 election?

But it really did not matter because it gave all the northern Liberals a chance to run around across northern Ontario talking about this fund, about the great Liberal commitment to this fund, and I am sure a number of them were elected on that premise. Just in case anyone missed it in the budget or anyone missed it during the election campaign, the government reiterated the promise again. In the throne speech, in November 1987, the government took another kick at the can of the northern Ontario heritage fund. They said this, and I quote again:

"We recognize that the issue of northern growth and development is one that will require ongoing attention.

"In addition to our existing northern programs, such as the northern development fund, we have been receiving input from northern Ontarians, and particularly northern development councils, on the role and mandate of the northern Ontario heritage fund. An advisory council will be established to help identify priorities in the distribution of the fund."

A decade later, after numerous promises on this fund, is it any wonder that northerners have become impatient? Is it any wonder to the members of this House why we cannot believe that the Liberals are going to move on this promise? I say to the minister—it is too bad he is not here—where is the advisory council promised in November 1987? Who are the members? Where is the money? We have not seen the heritage fund. We have not seen a dime of that fund put to work in northern Ontario yet, and the commitment was made almost a year ago.

Surely the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Minister of Northern Development have had

more than enough time to name a council. There are thousands of northerners who are willing and would be able to advise this government on northern development. In fact, the Premier has had two conferences on northern development in the north and there have been a number of approaches put forward on how this kind of money can be spent.

Since the minister has not seen fit to name a council and the Premier has not seen fit to do the same, I am going to point out to the minister that there are a number of groups who have to be represented on this council in order to speak for the north. Those committees have to have members from northern communities, labour, native groups, women's groups and small local businesses, and they must control disbursement of the fund. It has to be in northerners' hands and northerners have to have the control.

We in the north are more than capable of providing intelligent strategies for development, so I have to ask the government: What is the problem? Why the delay? Why the insult to northerners, who have waited so long, who have believed in this promise and who have yet to see the government deliver?

We are in a position today where I have to use my private members' hour to put forward a resolution in the hope of embarrassing this government into some type of action in northern Ontario. I say quite frankly to the members of this House that this government has misled northerners by recycling the same promise over and over again. I would like to know why the government is stalling. After all, the budget commitment was not excessive. It was a mere \$30 million; inadequate at best.

That is why we in the New Democratic Party proposed that adequate funding had to be put into the fund in order to ensure long-term development. That is why, during the election campaign, we proposed that at least \$500 million was going to be required over a three-year period in order to put into place an adequate fund that will continue over the long term. Ongoing funding, we said, would come in part from resource companies, particularly from stumpage fees and particularly from mining profits tax.

I find it most distressing in fact that after almost a year the northern Ontario heritage fund, which was firmly committed by this government and firmly committed by the Minister of Northern Development, has not yet been put into place. We in the north and we in this party are left to ask: Where is the money? There has been no shortage of proposals. There has

been no shortage of interest or of identification of priorities by various groups and committees. There has been no shortage of prodding and pleading by members on this side to urge the government to put this fund into place.

Frankly, as a northerner I am appalled, but more so I am offended, by the insensitivity of this government on this particular question. How much longer does this government expect to pay lipservice to people in the north? How much longer do they expect this charade to continue? How many more election promises will have to be broken? Perhaps the government is waiting for another election, yet another one, so the Liberal members can tromp off across the northern part of the province again and tell everyone about this great fund that is coming.

The government spent more money locating the Toyota plant in southern Ontario than it has provided for all the north. Yet we still have not seen a penny of it. I must say, when I look at the comparison between the amounts of money the Premier has spent in southern Ontario, whether it be on the Toyota plant or whether it be on the domed stadium, and the paltry sum we are given for all of northern Ontario, I have to ask: Is there not a double standard operating here?

Perhaps an 11-month wait is not too long for this government. We in the north have been waiting for over a decade for this type of funding anyway, but I think we have come to the point where we are sick and tired of waiting and we are really sick and tired of being patronized by this government. We are tired of being deceived and we are sick and tired of broken promises. The delay and the contempt that this government has demonstrated to northerners on the question of the northern Ontario heritage fund deserves the unanimous condemnation of members in this House. I urge all members to vote with me on this resolution.

The Deputy Speaker: May I bring members' attention to the presence of the former member for Sudbury East in the members' gallery, Elie Martel.

Mr. Eves: It is my pleasure to rise and speak in support of the motion of the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel). We should go back to a year ago today. It was on May 20, 1987, that this announcement was made in the last budget. I think it is somewhat appropriate that next week, on April 20, 1988, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) will again be rising in his place and introducing a budget without having delivered on the promises or commitments he made in the last budget.

The government missed the opportunity, in my opinion, to make any real inroads into equalizing disparity between the economies of northern and southern Ontario. In the 1985, not 1987, Liberal election campaign, tax credits for northern Ontario residents were promised. They have been ignored for three years now. As well, last year's budget did nothing to lower gasoline prices or hydro rates in northern Ontario, even though a private members' resolution calling for a lowering of northern hydro rates was unanimously passed by all members of the Legislature last May.

Interestingly enough, when this resolution came to a voice vote, some government members in the House voted against it. But when a recorded vote was called for, these same members apparently changed their minds or had to use the washrooms because they voted for it when a recorded vote was asked for.

1120

The budget did nothing to address the fact that the government has yet failed to deliver \$35.9 million worth of promises made over the two years between 1985 and 1987 to the northern development funds, small business development corporations and the community economic transformation agreement. Northern Ontario has been further deprived of the promised \$30-million softwood lumber rebate and has been paying, through higher gasoline taxes, in the neighbourhood of \$150 million a year in gasoline tax alone.

The government last year spent \$35 billion in its budget, \$8 billion more than in 1985, when it assumed office. The government's answer to helping northern Ontario is to add some \$26 million in its highway budget last year which, if it knows anything about highway construction in northern Ontario at all, will build exactly 13 miles of highway in the north, and to create a northern Ontario heritage fund, which it still has not delivered on and which is the subject matter of the private member resolution of the member for Sudbury East here today.

Even if it has delivered on that commitment, the government is merely returning to northerners the sum of \$30 million, a very small percentage of moneys extracted by this government from the north as a foundation for a fund. Last year this government had a \$1.3-billion revenue surplus over its projections. Compared to its surplus revenue alone, the northern Ontario heritage fund is exactly 0.023 per cent of the government's surplus revenue left over at the end of the March 31, 1987, fiscal year. They cannot

even deliver on that minuscule commitment in the period of one year.

I find it somewhat disturbing that the Minister of Northern Development is not present in the House this morning. I do not know what more pressing matter he could have anywhere than to be here for this debate this morning and to be accountable for his lack of action, and his government's lack of action, on this commitment made by this government over a year ago.

Mr. Black: Where have you been for the past 42 years?

Mr. Eves: I am not even 42 years old. I do not know where the member has been for 42 years.

The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) had a question, number 93, on the order paper:

"Would the Minister of Northern Development indicate the costs incurred in establishing the northern heritage fund, which was announced in the April 1987 throne speech, a list of all projects approved for funding under the fund, the amounts for each project and the administration costs to date of this program?"

The date of that question was February 9, 1988. The response from the minister was:

"No identifiable costs have been incurred since development work for the fund is being carried out within the regular public service. No projects have been approved for funding as yet. No identifiable administrative costs have been incurred."

I think that says it all. I think that says a lot about this government's and this minister's commitment to the northern Ontario heritage fund: one year of inaction.

I have a bit of a stake with respect to northern Ontario as well. There is the small issue of whether or not the district of Parry Sound should be included in northern Ontario for the purposes of all provincial government ministries.

Mr. Black: And Muskoka?

Mr. Eves: I do not believe that the regional municipality of Muskoka, answering the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay, is a territorial district. That was the original definition of what was supposed to be northern Ontario. When the Ministry of Northern Affairs was established in 1977, the member would know that ministry acknowledged the district of Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario, and always has. As a matter of fact, we have a northern affairs office in the town of Parry Sound itself and it serves our constituents very well.

Only nine ministers over the years have seen fit to include Parry Sound in northern Ontario. Despite the fact that the Parry Sound District

Municipal Association for three consecutive years now has passed resolutions petitioning and asking this government to include it in northern Ontario, despite the fact that for three years we have been getting promises from the Premier and whomever is Minister of Northern Development of the day that this will be done and that they will look into it, we still have not had a commitment delivered on that three-year-old promise that this government made.

As a matter of fact, on Monday morning I had the opportunity to speak before the Parry Sound District Municipal Association at its spring 1988 meeting and again the same resolution was passed. I am sure it will find its way to the Premier's desk and the minister's desk, and hopefully, some three, three and a half or four years later, they will get around to delivering on the commitment that they made.

I find it very disturbing that officials from this government, ministers and the Premier himself, can make these commitments to the constituents in my riding and turn around and renege on them year after year after year. I think that the lack of regard for northern Ontario is very, very serious indeed. I think my colleague the member for Sudbury East hits the nail right on the head: the time for action is now. A \$30-million fund, as far as I am concerned, is inadequate to start with, but the least they can do is deliver on a commitment in a year when they had a \$1.3-billion surplus in revenue.

I would like to read into the record some responses I have received from various ministers with respect to the northern Ontario status of the district of Parry Sound.

In response to last year's resolution by the municipal association, the Premier's office informed my staff that my letter of December 8, 1987, concerning the Parry Sound municipal resolution was not answered by the Premier because it was considered to be a duplicate of an earlier letter of August 5, 1987, to which the Premier had already responded on November 12, 1987. The Premier's response of that November stated that he was again looking into the matter.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) has said for two successive years now that he has been reviewing the matter but would be unable to provide a definite answer until a report on the goods and services weighting factor is received from the Ministry of Education. It is the same report that he has been waiting for, I presume, for over two years.

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) says: "If the district has any recommen-

dations on the administration of the Ministry of Natural Resources programs, I will have my staff work with those involved to consider changes. We can address the issue on a piecemeal basis."

In February 1986, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities—which, by the way, regards the district of Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario—passed a resolution to have the district fully included for the purposes of all provincial government ministries.

On June 25, 1987, in this House, every single member of this House unanimously supported my resolution to have the district included in northern Ontario. To date, this government has not delivered on that commitment either.

The Minister of Northern Development was recently in our riding, in the town of Parry Sound, and again reaffirmed his commitment to having Parry Sound included in northern Ontario but to date has done nothing.

The federal government regards the district of Parry Sound and Nipissing as being part of northern Ontario with its development fund.

An hon. member: What a surprise.

Mr. Eves: It is not a surprise to me. They are listening to what is going on and they are listening to people in northern Ontario. At least they are trying to do something about it. They are delivering on their \$55-million fund. This government has had this commitment outstanding for over one year and to date has not done one single thing; it has not spent one red cent for the people of northern Ontario.

Mr. Kozyra: I welcome the opportunity today to illustrate this government's commitment both political and financial to northern Ontario, its people and its issues.

Today's resolution deals with the northern Ontario heritage fund, and as the Minister for Northern Development said last week, he plans to introduce legislation pertaining to the fund very soon; in fact, in a matter of days. Over the last year the minister has consulted extensively with northerners receiving grass-roots input on the shape and scope of this fund.

The introduction of the heritage fund legislation will no doubt generate considerable discussion in this chamber, and I urge the honourable members on all sides of the House, who over the past weeks have indicated a concern that the fund be in place as soon as possible, to ensure that we expedite debate surrounding this historic and significant initiative.

Today I shall take a few moments to review this government's record of accomplishments in the north. This considerable list of accomplish-

ments will prove to this House that this government is concerned and acting positively on developments in northern Ontario.

1130

Among the first actions of this government was the establishment of the cabinet committee on northern development. Since its inception, its membership has grown to include over 15 ministers. It was established to help guide government actions in the north. Its influence encouraged more cabinet meetings in the north and more visits by cabinet ministers to the north.

This government-appointed committee of all three parties, as well as business, labour, municipal and academic representatives, resulted in the Rosehart report, an early blueprint for government action.

Key recommendations were as follows: the establishment of a long-term development strategy for the north; the establishment of a northern Ontario fund, more familiar now as the heritage fund; the relocation of civil service jobs to the north; the use of crown land as a development tool; accelerated government spending in the north; increased tourist funding; and the establishment of a forest industry in the north. All of these recommendations have been addressed with commendable speed and are showing very positive results.

Perhaps among the most successful initiatives undertaken were the Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay conferences on northern business and entrepreneurship. We are still receiving positive feedback on the highly successful Thunder Bay conference held in November 1987. The Minister of Northern Development has recently finished mailing the conference report, *An Agenda for Action*, to over 2,000 people.

Under the northern relocation program announced by the Premier in July 1986, close to 1,600 positions will move to the north, bringing with them an annual payroll of approximately \$48 million. Eight different ministries and agencies in whole or in part will move to six new buildings in four northern communities.

The head office of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines will find a new home in Sudbury, along with the mining health and safety branch of the Ministry of Labour. Over 525 positions and an annual payroll of approximately \$16 million will go to Sudbury alone. Other government ministries will move from Toronto to the north: North Bay, 355 positions; Thunder Bay, 230; and Sault Ste. Marie, 441. Wherever possible, the province intends to use northern

expertise and suppliers in both the construction and ongoing requirements of the new buildings.

The northern Ontario regional development program, Nordev, has committed much to northern Ontario. It has assisted more than 900 projects worth more than \$160 million and created an estimated 4,000 permanent jobs. It was refinanced in 1986-87 with \$20 million from the northern development fund.

Nordev is undoubtedly one of the most successful incentive funding programs, showing a very high rate of return compared to any other deferral or provincial program. Nordev has one of the lowest cost-per-job-created figures at \$5,500.

Two million dollars created chairs in forestry and mining at Lakehead University and Sudbury's Laurentian University. This represents a commitment to northern higher education and the development of more competitive and safer resource industries in the north.

Four million dollars started a northern forest biology institute, currently under construction by the Ministry of Natural Resources at Lakehead University.

Five million dollars will be directed to technology development units to be constructed next year in Thunder Bay and North Bay.

Fifteen million dollars has been dedicated to the northern Ontario tourist information centres enhancement program. This will strengthen the north's \$1-billion-a-year tourism industry.

Six and a half million dollars has been put into television extension to northern Ontario. It will provide cable extension to 85 northern communities not currently served by either cable or TVOntario's satellite extension program.

Finally, one further example of the northern development fund being put to good use is the \$1.1-million high school of science and technology co-operative program of the ministry with Lakehead University and Laurentian University. It provides summer classes in science and technology for secondary students showing exceptional aptitude in these areas. Last summer the school was so successful that it will be continued again this year.

Funded through the northern development fund and the Ministry of Culture and Communications, the \$8-million northern native small business development program provides eligible native business ventures with funding for feasibility studies, startup costs and capital costs.

The ministry has also initiated many programs in the education, health and social areas; for example, Contact North, the northern Ontario

distance education network officially opened in the fall of 1987. It provides for the establishment of learning centres in up to 30 communities across the north. Currently, 700 students are taking courses at all course levels through Contact North.

Bursaries for dentists and medical doctors have been increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500. The number of these bursaries has also been increased to 48 from 36 the previous year. New bursaries have been added for chiropodists, psychiatrists and psychometrists. The total number of bursaries for health and social professionals has been increased to 190 from 105 just three years ago. Incentive grants for rehabilitation professions have been increased to 59 from 35 last year. The incentive grants have been extended to include occupational therapists and speech pathologists and audiologists.

I am sure most members are familiar with the AgriNorth program which to date has provided 382 land drainage projects, 345 grain storage and handling projects, 281 forage storage projects, 66 technology demonstration projects and so on.

I have already mentioned NOTICE, the successful northern Ontario tourist information centres enhancement program, which is just one of many tourism initiatives sponsored by the ministry. We are involved in ski resorts, information centres and waterfront developments. The ministry currently is funding seven waterfront development projects in the north.

The northern community economic development program has provided funds for the creation of six municipal economic development agencies. Funded over five years, the MEDA officer works within the municipality to develop long-term planning strategies to identify and develop local business opportunities and attract new businesses and investment.

I also want to speak today about the northern development councils, whose main role it is to provide advice to the Minister of Northern Development and, through him, to the cabinet committees for northern development.

There are currently nine northern development councils operating in the province. They have addressed many issues since their inception, including north-south gasoline pricing, northern rural land use and creating a recently released document which was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) on crown land as a development tool. The councils have already submitted a report to the Minister of Natural Resources on the cottage lot study and are continuing discussion on this issue.

There is also the Woodbridge, Reed and Associates report on the forest products industry; the councils here are currently responding to a request from the Ministry of Natural Resources for input on this report.

Each council is also involved with issues within its own region, such as the Kenora-Rainy River council's involvement with the Atikokan-Minaki waterway and the Timiskaming council's not-yet-released report on education.

I feel that many members here today are surprised at the breadth of the initiatives this government is responsible for. However, I am certain that after hearing this brief overview of this government's record in the north, the member for Sudbury East and the members of this House cannot help but be impressed with the commitment and direction this government has taken in northern Ontario.

Mr. Hampton: It is indeed an honour to be able to speak in support of the resolution of my colleague the member for Sudbury East on the northern Ontario heritage fund. I intend to go over some of the things she has mentioned again and also to talk about a few subjects that she was unable to mention.

However, at this point in the debate, I think it is only fair and only reasonable that I respond to the comments made by the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Kozyra), because while I may agree with two or three of the things he has said in his speech, there are at least a dozen that deserve a fair bit of critical comment.

First of all, let me say this. As I listened to the member for Port Arthur, it really struck me that I was listening to one of Leo Bernier's retread speeches from about 10 years ago. Coming from the town of Fort Frances, which is located not far from the community of Sioux Lookout, I had the honour of listening to the former member for Kenora and former Minister of Northern Affairs many times.

Perhaps I should go back and look at one of Mr. Bernier's speeches and be sure that the member for Port Arthur has not taken it and merely updated it a few years, because many of the things that the member for Port Arthur mentioned were, in fact, things that were begun under the former government. I was never one to compliment that government—in fact, I was one to criticize it all the time—but I am surprised that this government that sits here now would try to take credit for some of the things that were introduced by the former government.

Let me just point out a couple of them. The member for Port Arthur mentions the northern Ontario regional development program. The Nordev program, in effect, has been around since 1966. That is really when it got under way and it has been around in various forms and through various changes and alterations of names since 1966. If I remember, back in 1966 the government that is there now might have claimed to be the official opposition, although at that time I do not think it was called the real opposition. The newspapers called the New Democratic Party the real opposition at that time, even though the Liberal Party was the official opposition.

I think we ought to be quite clear that many of these things are programs that were, in fact, begun by the former government. That illustrates where this government falls down, because even though the former Conservative government put many of these programs in place, the fact of the matter is they were a lot of Band-Aid solutions. They did not address the problems. Now we have this government taking those Band-Aid solutions, dressing them up a little, giving them a new name and saying, "Here it is folks."

Mr. Wildman: More of the same.

Mr. Hampton: More of the same; exactly.

In fact, I noted with interest that the member for Port Arthur spoke in glowing terms of the Premier's conference held at Thunder Bay last fall. I was at that conference. Afterwards, I had an opportunity to speak to many of the people who were there: some municipal leaders, some people from the local chambers of commerce, some people from some of the mining companies, even some of the media.

I said, "What did you think of this?" The overwhelming opinion that came back was: "It struck me that this was really a wine-and-dine affair to convince all of us who used to support the Conservative Party to come on over and support the Liberal Party. There was no policy developed here. There were no serious programs introduced here. This was a wine-and-dine affair at the expense of taxpayers to convince us that having supported the Tories for 20 or 30 years, now it is time to get on side with the Liberals."

That is what it was. It was an expensive party. There was not anything done there in terms of serious policy development. There was not anything done there in terms of serious program development. It was a nice party at the expense of Ontario taxpayers and the Liberal Party hopes it will derive the benefit of it three years down the road when another election is called.

Again, if that is what they call serious northern Ontario development policy, it is sad, it is really sad.

I want to go a little further, because there was some talk here about the relocation of jobs to northern Ontario. So far, we have seen some relocation of jobs to Sudbury. It is long, long overdue that some of the aspects of the Ministry of Natural Resources dealing with mining policy should be located in Sudbury. Some of the forestry policy and programs have, in fact, been relocated to Thunder Bay. That is long overdue.

Mr. Black: Who did it?

Mr. Hampton: I will give this government credit for some of those things, but we must remember there was a minority government there. They have been here now since September and we have not seen a thing on their own initiative; not a thing. Many of these things are leftovers from that two-year accord period.

I will give this government credit for being forced into doing something during the two-year accord, but since then—we saw it the other day with the Minister of Northern Development when he answered to the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot), "The heritage fund is not there yet, but maybe it will be there;" and the Treasurer, even later on, saying, "Yes, we do have this softwood export lumber tax."

Mr. Wildman: He threatened me.

Mr. Hampton: Yes, and he also threatened the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman). When the member looked at him and heckled him for the disappearance of the northern Ontario heritage fund, he had the gall to threaten the member for Algoma and to say, "If you do not quit criticizing me, I will make sure that none of this fund gets into your riding."

This sounds very much like the Mulroney government.

Mr. Callahan: You cannot compare that government to anything.

Mr. Hampton: I have to respond here to the heckling of the member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan)—

Mr. Callahan: He should not do that.

Mr. Hampton: —because really the Mulroney government, I think we would agree, is known for its capacity to say that white is not white, grey is not grey and blue is not blue, but this government is equal to that when it insists that everything should be a local option. There is an example of subterfuge at its best. Everything is a local option.

Mr. Wildman: A heritage fund local option.

Mr. Hampton: Yes, a local option on the heritage fund; that is what we will be talking about next, no doubt.

I want to refer to the relocation of the offices of the Ministry of Northern Development. It is true now that some of these offices are being moved into the Sudbury area, but really this amounts to taking what the former Minister of Northern Affairs, Mr. Bernier, established in Kenora: taking it out of northwestern Ontario and moving it to northeast. That is what this government calls progress. Do not develop the north; take it from the northwest and give it to the northeast. That is what this government calls progress.

I want to go just a bit further, though, because there was some mention here about the underserved area program for medical practitioners, the fact that the tax-free grants for doctors who will practise in northern communities have been increased. There again is an example of the out-of-touch, out-of-place policy of this government. At this very moment there are nearly 37 communities in northern Ontario which either do not have doctors or do not have sufficient numbers of doctors.

That problem has existed over the last three years. The increase in the grant structure has not had an effect and is not going to have an effect because it is not a question of money. Any doctor who goes to northern Ontario can make enough money out of his or her practice that the additional \$10,000 a year in grants is not going to assist in any way whatsoever. The problem is not money. The problem is that the medical schools we now have in Ontario, five of them in southern Ontario—count them—with budgets in the hundreds of millions of dollars, do not train doctors for northern Ontario. They just do not provide the kind of training you need to practise there.

I say, after having listened to the member for Port Arthur, that all the initiatives he has mentioned do not meet the needs of the communities of northern Ontario. What will meet the needs of the communities of northern Ontario is a northern Ontario heritage fund which will let us do the development ourselves and not be dependent upon piecemeal government hand-outs that do not meet the needs of all our communities.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Nipissing, for I think up to about six minutes.

Mr. Harris: It is a pleasure for me to rise and support the resolution. Let me say that I am delighted to see, finally, after my time in the House, a positive, meaningful resolution come

from the member for Sudbury East. Listen, I say that with tongue in cheek, only to acknowledge the presence of the former member for Sudbury East in the gallery. I do compliment the present member for Sudbury East.

Six minutes—of course now five and a half—is not nearly enough time to talk about the tragedy: what this government has said it would do for northern Ontario, the image it has tried to present for northern Ontario versus what it has actually done.

I do want to acknowledge one thing, the northern relocation program. I want to say two things about it. First, we support it. It is the one new thing they have done. We support it, but I will tell the members, there are some problems with it. There are problems of equity of benefit throughout northern Ontario, as some of my colleagues have mentioned, throughout the northeast and the northwest.

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Second, this government now has in excess of 6,000 new civil servants and 1,000 of them are being relocated to the north. That is our share. Let us not think this is something that dropped right out of the sky. I acknowledge that the former government was trying to restrain the growth of the civil service. It was trying to deliver programs more efficiently. It was trying to cut back. In spite of that, it still relocated some jobs to the north. So we have 6,000 new ones, 5,000 more in the south and 1,000 in the north. We think that is our share. It is not very much more than that.

I tell members, and I serve notice right now, that the Provincial Auditor is going to have fun when he looks at the cost of some of these buildings and the cost of what is going on here. We are not saying there are not going to be some costs in relocation, but I will tell the government that stories are coming out now about \$200- and \$300-a-foot construction costs for, in many cases, land that was donated or the government owned that was free.

An hon. member: You supported the program.

Mr. Harris: I am in support of delivering programs efficiently. I said I supported the program.

There are rumours now in North Bay of the costs of construction there, which never went to tender, being double—or perhaps even triple by the time you are finished—what it is supposed to cost. I just serve the government notice on that right now.

About a year ago, we had an emergency debate on a motion that I moved. It talked about seven things.

First, the government's failure to propose in its speech from the throne any solutions to deal with the serious problems of unemployment. This was a year ago and it was before the budget. In that budget, one thing came that was new for the north. That was the northern Ontario heritage fund of \$30 million. The tragedy is that not one cent was spent over the year.

Second, the government's failure to deal with the problems of the forest products industry. There is about \$30 million that this government has in softwood lumber tax on which the Premier personally made commitments in northern Ontario that that money would go back to help laid-off workers in the forest industry, would go back in support of the forest industry. Not a cent was spent. There is \$60 million, just like that.

Third, the government's failure to provide direction to the northern regional development councils. Everybody knows they were a joke and they are still a joke but we still have not heard anything since they were set up.

Fourth, the government's failure to follow through on its promise to equalize gasoline prices between northern and southern Ontario. The government promised that in 1985. Surely, if it could not dream up anything for the \$30 million, it could have used it towards reducing gasoline prices in northern Ontario. That would have benefited tourism, it would have benefited travelling, it would have benefited trucking, it would have benefited all the industry. That was not difficult to do.

Fifth, the government's suspension of plans to create four-lane highways in the north. It could have added \$30 million to the transportation budget. It could have said: "Look, I know we announced it. It is more difficult than we thought. We cannot seem to get something in place that we think is going to work. The former Tory programs are working so well that we cannot find a niche for the \$30 million. The northern Ontario regional development program is working well, thanks to Leo Bernier. The Northern Ontario Development Corp. is working well, as is the EduCap program. All the things the government talks about were all in place. You guys had it covered so well, we cannot find anything new to spend the money on." It could have put more money into highways. We wished we could have.

Sixth, the government promised in 1985 to follow through on an election promise of a \$100

rebate to northern taxpayers. That is a program where—the government has covered all the bases—we will just give \$100 back because it costs more to live in the north. I did not think it was the greatest program; but administratively, what does it cost to put into place? I would take the cheques back. There would be no cost at all. We would do that. I mean they would be very minimal. So the government did not do that.

Seventh, the continued delay in providing equitable health care for northern Ontario. We have had some discussions and some have talked about that.

The government has done nothing from this emergency debate resolution of a year ago and it is a travesty that the government continues to advertise all the good things it has done in the north when it could not spend one cent of this \$30 million.

Miss Martel: I want to thank my colleagues in the Conservative Party for the support they are going to give me on this resolution. I do want to make a couple of comments to the Liberal Party. I know my colleague the member for Rainy River (Mr. Hampton) has responded for the most part.

Let me go back to the programs that were in place, which the Liberals have made so much of a comment about. Let me go back to Rosehart—and this is why the heritage fund was then re-announced—who said:

"Such initiatives, although laudable, have failed to create a significant long-term focus for development in the north. It is the belief of the committee that the opportunity exists and the political will is present in Ontario to provide such a focus for development."

Clearly, what was in place was not working, or not working well. That is why we need a specific fund run by northerners to be put in place so that we determine our own economic destiny.

Second, he made a comment about the northern development councils, how they were meeting and how the minister was meeting with them to determine some kind of priority and some type of order. Let me tell the House how many of those councils had even met by June 1987: Kenora-Rainy River, no public meetings, one meeting of the agricultural committee; Thunder Bay, two public meetings, one meeting of the agricultural council; Algoma-Manitoulin, no public meetings, two meetings of the agricultural committee; Cochrane and area, no public meetings, one public meeting of the agricultural committee. The list goes on and on of the nine councils.

So I say to the Liberals, I cannot believe that they are meeting. If they are, we are not hearing about it and we do not hear what they are saying. In terms of the minister meeting with these types of people, we do not know what is happening and, quite frankly, I cannot believe that anything is happening.

I talked about the two economic conferences we heard so much about. My colleague said it was just a big party for all the former Tories who are now going to be Liberals. I would call it a Liberal love-in, and that was about as far as it got. The minister would have been better off taking some of the proposals put forward by my colleagues in Sault Ste. Marie, the 10-point plan for economic development in northern Ontario. Had he taken that and put that into place, he would have been a lot further ahead than he has been after two conferences in northern Ontario.

Let me talk about the relocation of offices. I want to say that finally we do have some movement. Some of those offices should have been in northern Ontario a long time ago, and you can bet your bottom dollar that the opening of those offices will be in conjunction with the next provincial election so we can have another fanfare and some more hoopla in the north by northern members.

The minister stood in his place last week and said: "Wait until next week. We are going to have some legislation and tremendous movement for northern Ontario." Let me just tell the minister what the Premier said in North Bay. In March he was having an interview with the North Bay Nugget, and the reporter asked him, "Any specific plans for northern Ontario?" The Premier said: "No, I have no specific plans for northern Ontario this year. I realize the position you are raising and I would love to give you a big scoop but I am not in a position to do so." Well, is that not a commitment for northern Ontario. Is that not wonderful. Maybe the Minister of Northern Development knows something the Premier does not.

I want to say in concluding that we have waited long enough in the north for this type of fund. The Liberals promised and repromised and announced and reannounced this fund so many times that we cannot even remember any more how many times. We have waited 11 months. We have seen no movement by this government. That is why I say this government deserves to be condemned for that, and I expect that my colleagues, and at least my northern colleagues in the Tories, will vote with me on that question.

ORGAN DONATIONS

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kanter has moved resolution 17.

Motion agreed to.

1205

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND

The House divided on Miss Martel's motion of resolution 16, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Brandt, Breough, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Hampton, Harris, Johnson, J. M., Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, McCague, Morin-Strom, Philip, Pollock, Pope, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Swart, Wildman.

Nays

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Brown, Callahan, Carrothers, Cleary, Collins, Cooke, D. R., Daigeler, Dietsch, Elliot, Epp, Faubert, Fawcett, Fleet, Kanter, Kozyra, Lipsett, MacDonald, Mahoney, Mancini, Matruddola, McGuinty, Miclash, Miller, Morin, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Offer, Owen, Pelissero, Poirier, Ray, M. C., Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Smith, D. W., Sola, South, Sullivan, Tatham, Velshi, Wilson.

Ayes 26; nays 47.

The House recessed at 12:09 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS

Mr. Pouliot: I have a message from the citizens of the Big Trout Lake Indian band, a translation from the Ojibway language:

"The people are our people, the children are our children, the resources are our resources, the land is our land. PCBs are yours. PCBs are destroying our people, our children, our fish, our land. We demand action. We want protection for our children, we want preservation for the future, we want our fish and animals to live free of PCBs, we want proper medical care and we want PCBs cleaned up and we want it done now."

I would also like to present, on behalf of the children in the community of Big Trout Lake, located some 1,200 miles from Toronto, a donation, which represents considerable savings, to the tune of approximately \$50. I would like to make the presentation to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) to initiate the cleaning up of that dreadful substance.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Eves: I rise in the House today to remind everyone of the double standard of this government. When a number of incidents arose where public safety was threatened by residents of halfway houses under the jurisdiction of federal parole boards, this government demanded that the federal government launch an immediate inquiry into the system, which it has done and completed. Yet when an incident equally as devastating happens in the Premier's own backyard, an internal inquiry will be sufficient, according to this government.

I am talking, of course, about the brutal attack on a 14-year old London girl. Two inmates of the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital have been charged with the attack. This government is awaiting the outcome of an internal review of the case. It is ignoring the public calls for a public inquiry into the procedures and practices of the Lieutenant Governor's Board of Review. They claim it is out of their jurisdiction. Yet when the federal parole board cases came to view, this government demanded a public inquiry.

Lieutenant Governor's warrants are recommended by a provincially appointed board and approved by this province's Lieutenant Governor

in Council. Patients are covered under warrants. This government changed that procedure. It repealed section 34 of the Mental Health Act during the debate on Bill 7. This was included in Bill 7. Nobody bothered to point it out. This was repealed by this government. It used to be the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and now they pass it back to the Lieutenant Governor. When are you going to launch a public—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired. Order. Would the honourable member take his seat?

EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. McClelland: As members of this House will know, we are drawing to the conclusion of Education Week. In Brampton, the Peel Board of Education and the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board have organized activities that include seminars and special opportunities for the community to be involved in the schools and for people of the community to be involved generally with education. I have had the opportunity and privilege of being involved in some of these activities and want to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to the young people and students of Brampton North.

In our society, where we all too often hear about problems and the activity of that very small segment or that very small portion of students and young people who get into trouble, I want to draw attention to the very positive young kids we have in our community, indeed across this province. My ongoing interaction, and I am sure the interaction of all members with young people, is a source of encouragement, and their vitality and contribution are very much appreciated.

I want to say to the students of Brampton North, and indeed to the students across this province, but more particularly to the students of Brampton North, thank you for your contribution in a very positive way and for all the good things that you do. Thank you for what you do for us.

PLANT CLOSURES

Mr. Mackenzie: Just recently, a small plant in Toronto, Trigild Ltd., copper products, closed down, just one of a whole series of plant closures we have had recently. In this particular case, the plant has since gone into receivership. There are 13 employees in this plant who end up getting three days' pay rather than the two weeks' pay in

lieu of notice and have no possibility of collecting from the receivers, or so they are told, because of the bank's prior claim.

The reason I raise this again is that it is an issue we have been raising for about 10 or 11 years in this House now, and over that period of time we have had a number of indications that the government might be prepared to look at changes in the bankruptcy legislation so that legitimate wages and benefits of workers are considered a priority rather than the payment back to the banks.

Nothing has happened, and we have these cases coming up on a monthly basis, sometimes more often than that. I guess the question the members of this House have to answer for people like the 13 families involved in this particular small plant is: where is the justice for those employees? When is this government going to take a look at changes in the bankruptcy legislation so that workers' wages and benefits are recognized as a priority?

ROUGE VALLEY

Mrs. Marland: I would like to take this opportunity to offer my party's endorsement of the city of Scarborough's decision to amend its official plan, allowing the Rouge Valley to be saved for recreation, wildlife preserves, hiking trails and research farms. I would also like to congratulate our federal Minister of the Environment, Tom McMillan, for expressing his concern for the Rouge Valley and committing his support for a joint federal-provincial park to be created at this site.

In the past, I have asked our Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) to make a commitment to the preservation of the Rouge Valley, but he has lacked the courage to come forward with a firm response. It seems that when it is politically convenient to throw responsibilities to the municipalities, this government is quick to move. However, when municipalities have shown leadership and have made a strong commitment, the province wants to wield the sceptre of power above them.

In the past, the province had said it wanted to consult with Scarborough on the use of the land. Scarborough said it wanted recreational uses, and now the province is indicating it may not even listen to the citizens of the area as it has, to quote the government, "a larger constituency to answer to." Today I am calling on the government to accept the decision of the city of Scarborough to preserve the Rouge Valley.

LE PÈRE GEORGES-HENRI LÉVESQUE

M. Poirier: À la veille de la Semaine de l'éducation en Ontario, j'aimerais informer les membres de l'Assemblée que ce soir, dans la ville de Québec, se fera la remise du premier Prix du mérite canadien Jeunesse-Education. Ce prix sera présenté au révérend père Georges-Henri Lévesque au cours d'une cérémonie qui aura lieu au Château Frontenac.

Le père Lévesque a eu 85 ans en janvier dernier. Il est né à Roberval, dans la province de Québec, et il a étudié à Chicoutimi avant de se joindre à l'ordre des dominicains, à Saint-Hyacinthe. Son ordination a eu lieu à Ottawa, en 1928.

Le père Lévesque a enseigné à Lille, en France, ainsi qu'à Ottawa et à Montréal, avant de fonder, en 1938, l'École puis la Faculté des sciences sociales et politiques de l'Université Laval.

Il est également cofondateur de la Société d'éducation des adultes de l'Université Laval et de la Commission canadienne sur la jeunesse. Le père Lévesque a fondé l'Université nationale du Rouanda en 1963. Il est Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur de France, Compagnon de l'Ordre du Canada et « Pater Patriae », ou Père de la Patrie, au Rouanda.

Le père Georges-Henri Lévesque a consacré sa vie à l'éducation de la jeunesse et ce, au Canada, en Europe et en Afrique. Il mérite pleinement que le premier Prix du mérite canadien Jeunesse-Education lui soit décerné. Il est un exemple dont pourront s'inspirer tous les éducateurs durant la Semaine de l'éducation, qui débutera ce dimanche-ci, en Ontario. Merci.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I am sending you a copy of an announcement made by the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert). This announcement was released on April 11. It states, and I will read it in part: "According to the recent Comay report, this site has the potential to be developed for office-commercial, limited ancillary retail or government uses." The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere made this announcement two days prior to the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) announcing that this same site was now being made available for housing proposals. There is obviously some confusion.

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I tried to sort this out last week by means of a map, so that the government House leader would know where these announcements ought to be

made. I did not envisage it would have to include Scarborough.

I believe there is a privilege matter involved here. I believe that announcements of this kind should be made in this chamber by the minister. They should not be made previously and add to some confusion by means of having ordinary members make similar but contradictory announcements in their own ridings.

Mr. Faubert: Mr. Speaker, may I rise on a matter of privilege? On this correspondence, I would ask this House to refer the matter to the Speaker, because it is the second time that a piece of correspondence which was taken from my garbage from my office has been used in this House. I suggest I would like to have this matter referred to the Speaker for a judgement on it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Breagh: Just a small point of privilege: I know nothing about the member's garbage. I do know that I have here a letter that was addressed to residents of his riding. That is the matter that I raised. What he does with his garbage is his own business.

Mr. Cousens: The outrage that we feel on this side of the House for members opposite having information given to them in advance of other members of the House is that it is, in fact, an insult to the whole process of this government.

It is a failure of this government to live up to the openness that it promised. It is a failure of this government to respond to written order paper questions. I had a written question in Orders and Notices as of December. I was promised a response on March 6 and did not get it. This member had the information and was sending it out to his constituents in advance of this House receiving it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This matter has been drawn to my attention. I have just received a copy. I will take a look at it and report back to the House.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: If I may, I would like to inform all members that we have a special guest in the Speaker's gallery today. I would like to introduce to all the members His Excellency Ziad Shawwaf, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Please join me in welcoming His Excellency.

Mr. Pope: I believe we also have another distinguished guest in the government members' gallery. Some of us knew him as the ex officio

chairman of Ontario Hydro. Others knew him for his rigorous adherence to the rules of procedure of this Legislative Assembly, but the former member for Grey-Bruce, Eddie Sargent, is among us.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

RETAIL STORE HOURS

HEURES OUVRABLES

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Mr. Speaker, as legislators—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Where's the applause?

[Applause]

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Why, thank you.

As legislators, we know that society cannot function fairly with legislation that cannot be fairly administered. It is up to us to review the laws that are not working, identify the problems and fix them in order to ensure that people of this province have fair, enforceable standards to guide their actions.

The Retail Business Holidays Act has long needed such a review. Its history is a catalogue of abuses, especially in our larger cities. Stores have been roped off and barricaded to meet size regulations; department stores have billed themselves as drugstores; the same street purports to be a tourist attraction on the west side, while, on the east side, it remains closed.

These instances may be within the letter of the law. They are not within the spirit of the law. That is a clear signal that the law needs to be changed. It needs to be fair, coherent and workable. It needs to reflect the values and traditions of the people of the province. Today, we are proposing such legislation.

We are retaining a provincial framework to regulate retail shopping on Sundays and holidays under our legislation. The provincial framework will be fair and enforceable. Municipalities are free to choose to enact bylaws to adapt that framework to their local needs. They may permit to open such additional businesses as they consider appropriate. They may close businesses, if that is their choice. They may choose not to act at all, but to live within the provincial framework.

Ontario is a diverse, multicultural, dynamic mix of communities, each with its own unique set of values. These communities will now have greater freedom of choice over an issue that is so closely tied to these values.

Local decision-making is not a new concept in Ontario. In fact, it is an Ontario tradition. Communities already have the power to regulate

store hours throughout the week. Sunday sports and liquor availability have both been matters of local decision-making. Many communities have exercised their existing option to designate tourist areas and, as a result, have extensive shopping on Sundays and holidays already.

The legislation we are proposing will allow local self-determination in Ontario to continue. The key is flexibility coupled with fairness. That is why the government intends to permit the regional level of government to exercise the local option. Regional government has the scope to balance the needs of the varieties of communities within its boundaries. Local government must have the right to make its retail business regulation reflect the reality of its own marketplace and values.

Take the example of the tourist exemption. This government recognizes the need to protect and expand tourism throughout the province. It is one of our largest industries and provides jobs and money for thousands of Ontarians, yet we all know that the tourist exemption is not always used in a fair or consistent manner.

Under the proposed legislation, the tourist exemption is phased out over a five-year period. Communities will be able to allow Sunday and holiday shopping in whatever areas they wish, for whatever purposes they wish, including the promotion of tourism. But they will not have to stretch credibility by manufacturing a tourist area. It is a more coherent, honest and fair approach.

This brings me to the framework law that applies to the entire province. The framework is directed at fairness and enforceability. As soon as the law is proclaimed, some significant changes will take place.

There will be a strengthened Sabbatarian exemption protecting retail business owners who recognize a Sabbath other than Sunday. Provisions in leases and franchise agreements which require tenants to open their stores on Sundays and holidays will no longer have any effect. This protection applies to both existing and future leasing arrangements.

As you will hear from my colleague the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara), the government will introduce today protections for retail workers. Also, Boxing Day will be an official holiday and will always fall on December 26.

The government has ensured that the new law will be more enforceable. We have eliminated abuses. We have simplified the rules regarding drugstores. We have phased out roping-off. We have increased the maximum fines to \$50,000

and provided effective deterrents to breaking the law.

In conclusion, the proposed legislation provides a fair and enforceable framework for the regulation of Sunday and holiday shopping throughout Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: As my colleague the Solicitor General has indicated, the government is proposing legislation that offers a fair, coherent, workable law that allows the people of Ontario freedom of choice. It replaces an unworkable law whose application, as members know, was becoming increasingly difficult to enforce, particularly in many of Ontario's urban centres.

I will remind the members of the Legislature that last December 2, I committed, on behalf of the government, to "bring forward the necessary protections for affected workers" at the time when the promised amendments to the Retail Business Holidays Act were introduced. Today, I want to affirm that commitment and to describe how it is to be fulfilled.

Later on this afternoon, I will be introducing an amendment to the Employment Standards Act to create new protections for employees of retail business establishments that open on Sunday. The bill will provide protection to all retail workers and thereby ensure a coherent and fair application of the law throughout the retail sector. Consequently, I am confident that all employees of Sunday-opening retail establishments, including those, like students and some part-time workers, who prefer Sunday work, will stand to benefit.

As a result of this amendment, employers will be encouraged to work out co-operative arrangements for Sunday work that take into account the interest of those individuals who wish either not to work on Sunday or to keep Sunday work to a minimum. This will be accomplished through the establishment of a right for all retail workers to refuse Sunday work which, in their view, is unreasonable. The bill will protect workers against reprisals for such refusals.

The new law will also provide a process to help employers and employees resolve disputes over what constitutes unreasonable Sunday work or over allegations of reprisals against employees.

Monsieur le Président, cela sera accompli en donnant le droit à tous les travailleurs du commerce de détail de refuser de travailler le dimanche, s'ils jugent que cela n'est pas raisonnable. Ce projet de loi protégera tous les travailleurs contre les représailles prises contre eux pour avoir refusé de travailler. La nouvelle

loi fournira un processus destiné à permettre aux employeurs et aux travailleurs de résoudre des différends relatifs au travail le dimanche jugé non raisonnable.

The act will provide for simple and effective mediation. If no settlement is reached through mediation, the matter will be referred to an independent referee appointed under the Employment Standards Act.

Referees hearing disputes in these matters will be able to weigh a number of factors in reaching a decision about the reasonableness of an employer's approach to scheduling of Sunday work.

Mr. Pope: We would have thought you would have done your job and protected the workers.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I would have thought the opposition parties would have wanted to know the content of this statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: These factors will be set out in the bill and will include such criteria as the existence of a premium pay arrangement for Sunday work and the recent history of employment, including any previous requirement to work on Sunday.

An employee will have the right to refuse Sunday work unless and until a referee decides that the assignment of work is reasonable.

The One Day's Rest in Seven Act currently applies in the hospitality industry and will continue to do so. The government will therefore be bringing forth a regulation that excludes the hospitality industry from the provisions of the new bill.

As my colleague the Solicitor General has indicated, the bill will make Boxing Day, December 26, a public holiday for the purposes of the Employment Standards Act, and I know my friend the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) will welcome that initiative. That will mean that the special premium pay and right-to-refuse provisions for public holidays will be extended to Boxing Day.

This bill augments protection provided to all employees in Ontario under the Ontario Human Rights Code. The code requires that employers reasonably accommodate the need of a person whose religious beliefs and practices limit his or her ability to work on a particular day, including Sunday, except where this would result in undue hardship for the employer.

In addition, Bill 51, which I introduced in December and which was passed in January, continues to give retail workers the right to refuse

to work on Sunday if the store employing them is open in violation of the Retail Business Holidays Act.

The bill I am bringing forward today is a fair and enforceable law that provides new protection to every worker in the retail sector in Ontario.

The approach the government has adopted will, in addition, encourage the workplace parties themselves to seek innovative solutions that work for them. As a result, a higher standard for Sunday work than has existed in the past will be established throughout the retail sector in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The legislation that is being introduced by the government today will, we believe, provide the people of Ontario with fair, coherent, enforceable legislation which allows the freedom of choice to reflect local needs in each of Ontario's communities. The legislation also provides important new protections never before in place for all retail workers. I want to underline that the government's amendments have been carefully drafted so as to fully respect and protect rights guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Over the past several years, it has become obvious, more so year by year, that major changes are needed in the regulation of Sunday and holiday shopping in the province.

One of the main reasons the government decided to change the previous legislation was precisely because it was abused. The existing legislation, a political compromise in place since 1975, has been flagrantly and systematically violated by numerous retailers and was particularly violated during the Christmas and post-Christmas shopping season.

Mr. Brandt: Ian, this is the camera that is on over here.

Mr. Jackson: Ian, the camera is over here.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Camera 2, take 2.

Mr. B. Rae: Take 2.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The Leader of the Opposition is mesmerized by the camera. I wish he would pay attention to this statement.

Each year, as all of us know, disrespect for the existing law has become more widespread. As a former Attorney General said years ago, the act was a law whose application was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres.

The new legislation proposed, on the other hand, is based, I believe, on a solid foundation of

fairness. It allows freedom of choice for Ontario communities to determine their own unique needs while providing a gradual, orderly transition over a five-year period. It is workable and enforceable, so it will not be subject to widespread abuse. It provides, for the first time in Ontario, fair and effective protection for all retail workers. It protects religious groups. It treats retailers all across the province more equitably. It provides a consistent, rational framework for Sunday and holiday shopping in the province. In this sense, it responds to the demands, the requirements of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The central feature of the legislation is a provincial framework for the regulation of Sunday and holiday shopping. If a municipality wishes to play no part in the regulation of Sunday and holiday store hours, the provincial framework will continue to govern. The amendments also grant municipal governments the power to override the provincial framework if they wish to do so. Local governments will thus, if they wish, be able to pass bylaws allowing the opening or requiring the closing of retail establishments on Sundays and holidays.

1400

This change recognizes the value of community autonomy and local choice in the matter of regulating Sunday and holiday shopping. Ontario is a vast and diverse province. The regulation of store openings must be sensitive to this diversity and recognize the differences among our communities. The government's proposal will provide communities with the freedom to choose, if they wish, for themselves.

As the Premier (Mr. Peterson) repeatedly emphasized in his discussions of the issue, providing for local option does not require or assume wide-open Sunday and holiday shopping. Local option simply allows municipalities more scope to make decisions which respect the unique nature of their own communities.

The government's proposals also ensure that the new framework is sensitive to individual rights under the charter.

In the *Edwards Books* case, the Supreme Court of Canada made it clear that Sunday-closing legislation must protect the religious freedom of retailers who observe a Sabbath other than Sunday.

The government's amendments contain a broadened Sabbatarian exemption which will protect the religious rights of all retailers without any restrictions as to their size, the number of employees or the day of the week on which they

close. This broadened exemption will apply whether the local option is exercised or not. It furthers the government's commitment to respect minority rights and recognizes the evolving multicultural character of the province. This reinforces the protections of religious rights of employees and workers which are found under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Mr. Pope: Oh, sure. Tell us how.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I refer the honourable member to the case of *O'Malley v. the Robert Simpson Co.*, decided in the Supreme Court of Canada.

The courts also have made plain that extending special protection to retail workers is fully consistent with the charter. In recognition of this, the government has granted all retail workers the right to refuse Sunday and holiday assignments that they consider unreasonable.

We believe that this package of amendments provides, for the first time, a workable, fair, flexible solution to the issue of Sunday and holiday shopping. The amendments are grounded in the belief that what is appropriate for Toronto or Windsor may not be appropriate for Tillsonburg or Thunder Bay or Pembroke. In this important matter, the citizens of this province are entitled to the freedom to choose for themselves.

RESPONSES

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. B. Rae: I think all of us who heard these three statements, and those of us who have been here for some time, would be hard pressed to match a sense that words have been twisted, commitments have been broken and promises have been unkept that were made in this House to many of us who are here today and to the people of this province by the Premier of this province (Mr. Peterson), by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), by the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) and by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara).

What the government is proposing is not fair, is not right and is offensive to literally thousands of families in this province. It is going to represent a hardship and a burden on working people and their families. It is going to represent a major change in the way in which Sunday is observed and treated in literally dozens of communities across this province.

I want to tell the government on behalf of the official opposition, and indeed I think I can safely say on behalf of all the opposition members in this House, that the government members are going to have a fight on these measures such as they have never seen in their

political careers before. That is what I can tell them right now.

Interjection.

Mr. B. Rae: No, you might not like to hear it, but hear it for a moment; hear me out.

First breach: the Liberal Party of Ontario did not campaign in the last election on this issue. In fact quite the contrary; the position that was taken by the Liberal Party of Ontario in the last election was that the previous compromise that had been reached was the one that was acceptable to it.

Interjection.

Mr. B. Rae: The Attorney General, who is shouting now from his seat, has said on many occasions, and he said again today, that the law is not enforceable. I want to suggest to the Attorney General that one of the reasons the law is unenforceable is because he was not prepared to enforce it when the Supreme Court said he could and he should. That is the problem. He has never supported this legislation, and even when it was the law he turned his head to it. Then he turns around to his caucus and says: "It cannot be enforced. I guess we will have to go another route." I cannot imagine an approach more calculated to bring about a disrespect for the law.

Then we have an approach taken by the Minister of Labour. I heard the Premier myself say on a television broadcast in December that no worker would have to work on a Sunday in the retail stores who did not want to. I heard him say that and he was asked yesterday to repeat it and he did not repeat it. What does the Minister of Labour say today? Listen to this unadorned statement of the workers' rights in Ontario: "An employee will have the right to refuse Sunday work unless and until a referee decides that the assignment of work is reasonable."

If that is not a weasel word and a sucker clause, I do not know what is. That offers no protection to working families in this province when it comes to Sunday working. It offers no protection at all.

Let me compare this legislation. In Massachusetts, the law which provides for Sunday opening after 12 noon says, "No employee shall be required to perform such Sunday work and refusal to work for any retail establishment on Sunday shall not be grounds for discrimination, dismissal, discharge, reduction in hours or any other penalty." Now, that is a protection.

What the Minister of Labour has produced for us is work for lawyers on Saturdays, Sundays and every other day of the week, work for arbitrators and more bureaucrats in the ministry running around trying to do something, but it is no

protection for the working families of this province when it comes to them wanting to spend time on Sundays.

Finally, we have the statement of the Solicitor General. I can only say, whenever I hear her speak, that I feel an enormous sense of sadness because she was on that committee and she knows perfectly well what that committee said about the importance of a common pause day for all of Ontario. She agreed with that and she went along with it and she knew what she was saying. She is now in cabinet and she is now speaking a very different tune.

Those of us who have been involved in politics and watched the wonders of the effects of power on some can hardly be surprised. One becomes, if not cynical at least sceptical, in observing the varieties of human behaviour in this regard, but when somebody says one thing as a private member and then turns around as a cabinet minister and says the opposite, I think something is wrong with respect to telling it straight and telling it like it is.

We are going to be fighting this bill all the way.

Mrs. Cunningham: On behalf of our party, I want to say to the Premier and the ministers that maybe they have not started listening to the people of the province and maybe they have not got the message yet, but they are going to. Families in this province are frustrated and angry. They do not want to work on Sundays. They want a common pause day.

Our party will be forcing this bill into committee and we will be demanding that every individual, every group, every organization and every municipality that wants to be heard on Sunday shopping be heard; luckily not in this arena, but they will be heard.

The people of Ontario deserve to have their wishes and their concerns put before those who represent them, particularly the Premier.

1410

Mr. McCague: The people of the province can still be heard on this issue. I suggest that the people of Guelph call their member at this number and remind him who he is supposed to represent. The people of Cornwall can call their member and remind him who voted him into office and who can vote him out. In Peterborough, call the member there and remind him that he called the municipal option a copout. The people of Kingston and The Islands can call their member and remind him.

Mr. Brandt: Among many flaws in the legislation we have before us today is the

fundamental flaw that, in some fashion or another, the municipalities are going to welcome this so-called municipal option. Let me say to the Premier he could not be further from the truth. In checking with local municipalities, including his own today, the city of London, I have yet to see one municipality that has indicated it wants to take this particular responsibility under its area of concern at the local level. They simply do not want it. The vote at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario was 58 to three against what the Premier is proposing to do.

The Premier, members of cabinet and particularly the Liberal members in the back benches, who in fact campaigned against this very concept on September 10, 1987, are doing the wrong thing by supporting this legislation. What they are doing is promoting wide-open commercialism seven days a week in this province as a result of the kind of laws they want to bring forward. They are not providing protection for workers, they are not providing protection for small retailers.

The association of municipalities, organized labour, church groups—virtually every single voice in Ontario that could come forward and tell the Premier he is doing the wrong thing—have expressed their dissatisfaction to the Premier, and he and his people will now pay the political price for it.

Mr. Harris: I want to respond in general to the statements, and I want to respond specifically to the statements by the Minister of Labour and the Attorney General.

The Attorney General indicates that there would be a provincial framework, but municipalities can override it. Therefore, there will not be any provincial framework in those municipalities.

Interjections.

Mr. Harris: No, it says it can be overridden.

Hon. Mr. Scott: They can override it now.

Mr. Harris: You know, the real tragedy here, this whole shemozzle, this five-year phase-in the government is talking about, and perhaps 10 years of confusion, of shemozzle, of unenforceable laws, of a ridiculous, embarrassing day for the Minister of Labour, is all brought about because the government does not want to or is afraid to define "tourism." That could have been done very simply. I volunteered to do it for them. It would have cost nothing. The government is going to tie up lawyers and millions of dollars in stuff that will not work, instead of going to the

problem and solving the problem, to satisfy these four guys on that front bench.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired. Order.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: I have been asked to inform the members that we have a visitor with us today, the leader of the New Democratic Party in Quebec, Roland Morin, in the lower west gallery.

ORAL QUESTIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Premier. He indicated in December, and his Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) certainly indicated in December, that there was going to be real worker protection legislation introduced at the same time as the government moved with its plans to allow municipalities to let people shop till they drop.

The minister announced today a proposal which, I am sure the Premier would agree, falls far short of a statement in the Legislature that in fact workers will have the right to refuse and that this right will be untrammelled.

I wonder if the Premier can explain why it is that instead of giving workers that kind of right, the government in fact chose to limit the right in such a serious way as in the legislation proposed today by the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the Minister of Labour can explain the law to the honourable member.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It was your promise. What a gutless wonder. He makes a promise and won't even follow through.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It has been referred to the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: With all due respect to the Leader of the Opposition, he is rather a pile of contradictions on this matter. I heard the Leader of the Opposition say in this House as recently as yesterday that he was going to give his party an opportunity to vote freely on this. Today I hear him say, in response to ministers' statements, "Our party is going to fight to the death on this issue." Now what is it? Is his party going to be free to vote wherever they want on this issue, to look at this bill? I invite the Leader of the Opposition to now end the rhetoric and study the legislation.

This is the first time in the history of this province that workers have been given a right to refuse work on a particular day. This is a new right that has never been offered before. I invite

the Leader of the Opposition and all of the opposition parties to study it, because when they study it, they will see it is a new right that is important for the retail workers of this province.

Mr. B. Rae: In my response to the minister's statement, I quoted to him the law in Massachusetts, which is very clear. It does not talk about reasonableness. It does not talk about mediation. It does not talk about employers and lions and lambs sitting down together to work out a co-operative arrangement. It talks about giving workers rights. The government has not done that. That is a very different kind of approach.

My very simple question to the minister is, why did he not do that, when both he and his leader, who was afraid to answer my question directly, stated in December very clearly and categorically that those were the rights they would be attaching to working people who are working in the retail trade? Why did the government take that right away and substitute for it a mealy-mouthed sucker clause that does not give the workers the kinds of rights the government pretends to give them?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: There, again, I think, is another perfect example. My friend the Leader of the Opposition has not even read the bill yet, has not read the fact that it will have a prohibition against dismissal, against discipline, against imposing any penalty, against intimidation.

Even more to the point, when we look at the contradictions of the Leader of the Opposition and that party, this matter of regulating retail business holidays goes back to 1976 in this Legislature. In 1975 his party, as it is now, was the official opposition, when the bill we are amending today was brought in. We did not then hear that party talking about worker protection as Sunday shopping was expanded. It was never mentioned. Now, when we bring in a law that is reasonable and will work for the retail workers of this province, they have nothing to say and no apologies to make.

Mr. B. Rae: On page 7 of the statement which the minister has given us, it sets out all the factors that are calculated as being "reasonable." It talks about the existence of a collective agreement covering Sunday work, the recent history of employment, including any previous requirement to work on Sunday, and so on.

Would the minister not agree that if an arbitrator finds that under a previous law, people were working on Sunday perhaps because the law was unenforced, people were working on Sunday because the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) was not prepared to enforce the law, so

that the existence of a previous practice, which might have been illegal, condoned by the minister's government, that somehow lends credence to an employer who says, "Our employees have always worked on a Sunday"?

Does the Minister of Labour not understand in dealing with the real world of the relationship between employers and employees in the workforce that by limiting the right, by padding it, by cutting away at its essence, what in fact he is doing is ensuring that the power relationship stays with the employer, the process of time—everybody having to be a hero to go to mediation, to be a hero and a troublemaker to go to mediation and then to go to arbitration—what in fact the government is doing is changing the working lives of thousands of people in this province who may live in municipalities where they have decided to allow—

1420

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Once again, the Leader of the Opposition speaks from both sides of his mouth on these sorts of issues. When we talk about occupational health and safety, the New Democratic Party is saying to me on any occasion that it can, "You've got to reinforce the right to refuse."

Here, for the first time, we have brought in a law which will contain a number of statutory indicia of a reasonable assignment of Sunday work. The entire thrust of this law is to bring about a situation where, by and large, the workforce in the retail sector on Sundays is a voluntary one. I am telling my friend the Leader of the Opposition that that will be the result of this provision. It is designed to work, and designed to work in a fair and effective way.

Mr. Speaker: New question. To whom?

Mr. B. Rae: The Magna Carta did not talk about "by and large." John Diefenbaker's Bill of Rights did not talk about "by and large." The Charter of Rights does not talk about "by and large."

Mr. Speaker: To the Minister of Labour.

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the Minister of Labour this, going back to page 6, which again is where he completely guts the meaning of an enforceable right on the part of working people. What he says, for example, is, "the existence of a premium pay arrangement for Sunday work," and the existence of a policy of rotating Sunday work assignments. Is this what it means, that if a mediator or an arbitrator hears from an employer,

"I do not make them work every Sunday; I make them work only on some Sundays," does that satisfy his "reasonable" test? Is that what he means by "reasonable"? Is that what he is saying is reasonable?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Leader of the Opposition talks about what, by and large, John Diefenbaker's Bill of Rights said and what the Magna Carta said. Well, I can tell him, by and large, that when this parliament several months ago passed an amendment to the Employment Standards Act which provided for the opening of bookstores in the province, there was not one word from the official opposition about providing protection for the workers, not one word.

The system that is provided for in this bill will give employers and employees a context within which to work out assignments of Sunday work. I remind my friend the Leader of the Opposition that hundreds and hundreds of thousands of workers in the province of Ontario, in his own office indeed, have to be available and can be called upon for Sunday work. Here we are creating a new standard, a higher standard for workers in the retail sector, and I think it should be welcomed right across the province.

Mr. B. Rae: I did not hear an answer to my question. I asked the minister a question about the legislation. He said to me in one of his answers to my earlier questions: "Stop being rhetorical. Let's get down to specifics." So I turned to page 6 and said, "Fine, let us get down to specifics." I have asked him, I think, about four or five specifics and have not heard one answer. I have heard insults. I have heard statements about all kinds of things. I have not heard an answer. I would like to hear an answer.

Is the minister saying in his legislation, when he speaks in his statement of the existence of a policy of rotating Sunday work assignments, that if an employer says, "I do not make them work every Sunday; I make them work only some Sundays," that makes the assignment of Sunday work reasonable? Is that what he is saying?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The bill sets out a number of statutory criteria that a mediator, and indeed, if necessary, a referee, can refer to. The bill provides simply this: if a retail worker is required to work on Sunday, if that worker considers in his view that the assignment of Sunday work is unreasonable, he can refuse that assignment of Sunday work and the bill will provide protection against dismissal, against discipline, against the imposition of a penalty or intimidation or coercion.

Obviously, there ultimately has to be a determination of whether the assignment is reasonable or unreasonable. We have provided in the legislation a fair, easy system for workers and employers to present their differences and develop a solution that is mediated, and if not mediated to be determined finally and in a binding way by a referee.

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if the minister can tell us, if an employee loses his case at arbitration and an arbitrator finds that the existence of a premium pay arrangement for Sunday work or the fact that it is rotated—I know he is getting his instructions from the Attorney General; I would appreciate an answer from him.

I would like to ask him a question. If the arbitrator finds that in fact it is reasonable for the employee to do that work, and if the employee continues to feel that it is unreasonable and in fact says to the employer, "I do not agree with your decision and I do not agree with the Liberal-appointed referee's decision either," can the Minister of Labour tell us what protection the worker then has when he says to the employer, "I do not want to work on that Sunday"? Would the minister confirm in this House that the clear meaning of the law in Liberal Ontario will be that the worker will be without a job?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Leader of the Opposition suggested I was getting my instructions from the Attorney General. I can tell him that what I hear from the Attorney General is, "Greg, I like your bill more and more."

Mr. Pope: That says it all.

Mr. Breagh: That should be a warning signal, Greg.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am just telling you what I hear, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: And now the response to the second part of the question.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: To answer the final supplementary of the Leader of the Opposition, he will know that virtually all sectors have the capacity to require workers to work on Sunday. We have determined that in dealing with amendments to the Retail Business Holidays Act it is appropriate to provide a special and higher standard for retail workers. If a referee looks at criteria within the act and determines, after hearing from the worker and the employer, that all reasonable accommodation has been made to provide for those who would prefer not to work on Sunday or who, for one reason or another, cannot work on Sunday, then the work will be determined to be reasonable, and at that point the

right of the workers to refuse Sunday work will expire.

That worker also has the possibility—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Do members want to hear an answer, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question.

Mr. Brandt: Let me just say to the Minister of Labour that, as I read his bill, unlike the Attorney General, I like it less and less, not more and more.

My question is to the Premier and it is with respect to the fundamental premise upon which this legislation is constructed. The suggestion from that side of the House is that the municipal option will allow freedom of choice to the various municipalities, as I understand the point he is bringing forward with respect to this legislation, and the individual municipalities, based on their individual objectives and goals in their part of the province, will now make the decision.

Contrary to what the Premier might think—and I know this is a position that he does not agree with—the municipalities, which are going to be charged with the responsibility of carrying out this legislation and enforcing it, have said with virtually a unified voice that they are incapable of doing it. But more particularly—and they have read it and they know exactly what is coming up in this legislation—the fact of the matter is that there are no changes in this legislation from what has been proposed all along. There is no genius, as the Premier suggested there was going to be.

The bottom line and the question I want to ask the Premier is simply this. The municipalities have indicated they are incapable of withstanding the pressure from competing municipalities that may wish to go for wide-open Sunday shopping. They have indicated that the pressure that will be placed on those municipalities will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to resist.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Brandt: What is the Premier going to say to those municipalities?

1430

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend argues on the one hand that there are no changes and on the other hand that there are changes. Obviously, he has not read the bill. My honourable friend would want to do that so that he can explain to his friends in municipalities what is in the bill.

I think it is very clear that there is a framework law in place. The previous law was unfair and

unenforceable. As my honourable friend knows, this bill is very clear, and any municipality that wants to do so can be part of that framework law. However, if Sault Ste. Marie would like to take a different approach, then it is entitled to do so, as can Point Edward. Surely that is clear to my honourable friend.

Mr. Brandt: It is not clear, and it is not clear to the municipalities or others who know of the direction the Premier is taking with respect to this legislation today.

In light of the fact that we are going to have a chequerboard of laws across this province, obviously, with various municipalities being either open or closed depending on the local determination, how is this going to bring some semblance of sanity into the understanding that the people of this province have relative to the conditions that will exist in their own municipalities, particularly when one recognizes that in the more populated parts of Ontario we have many municipalities which are adjacent to each other, which are in fact influenced by the shopping centres, the commercial activity and all of the activities that go on in those municipalities? How are those municipalities in any way going to withstand this kind of competition, which he seems to think is not even a factor?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Mr. Brandt: How are we going to have any kind of uniformity of laws in this province with what he is suggesting?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend talks about sanity in the situation. He would obviously imply that there is something irrational or not sane about the Point Edward situation vis-à-vis Sarnia in his own constituency. All my experience is that the people of that area are extremely sane, except for the choice of their representatives perhaps. But let me say that the situation works very well. What is so irrational about what happens in Sault Ste. Marie, Niagara Falls or Niagara-on-the-Lake, for all that matter?

Again, I say my honourable friend should look at the jurisdiction where this happens. He should look at what is happening in Alberta today. Is there anything particularly lacking in rationality there?

Mr. Sterling: It isn't working.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend says they do not like it. Then again, he is prepared to stand up here in this House and say what people like and what they do not like. He is prepared to make laws for everybody from Sault Ste. Marie to Kingston, as well as Alberta it

appears, while we respect local autonomy. That is what this law is all about, and it works very well in other jurisdictions.

Mr. Brandt: The Premier has some local autonomy when it is convenient to him; he withholds local autonomy when it is inconvenient to him. That happens to be the reality.

I also recall very clearly the Premier's words in August 1987, prior to a very important date in this particular province, namely September 10, when he indicated the people of this province needed a common day of pause and a common day of rest. That is what we on this side of the House are fighting for. That is what the Premier is destroying. He has gone back on the word that he gave to the people of this province in August of last year. Why has he changed his mind?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Again, we have gone through this issue, and my honourable friend keeps shifting his ground for the argument that he wants to make. He should look at the bill that has been brought forward. It is completely consistent with what we think is good policymaking. It respects the individuality of the various communities and is going to work very well. This is fair, it is understandable and it is enforceable, unlike, may I say, the law that his government brought in.

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Let us zero in on what is reasonable. We have Follis Shoes. It has three employees. They all require day care, and they all say they do not want to work on Sunday. That is the total staff. Is it reasonable for the employer to ask one of them to work on Sunday, to ask the three of them to share it every third Sunday? Where do they find day care?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let me start off by suggesting to my friend the member for Nipissing that perhaps back almost 12 years ago now, more than 12 years ago, it might have been fair and reasonable when his party brought in the original Retail Business Holidays Act to provide for the fact that workers would be called upon to work on Sunday. I tell him, as I told the leader of the official opposition, that the fact is that many, many workers in this province, whether in the steel industry or the transportation industry, whether in manufacturing or any sector one can name, are subject to be called upon for work on Sunday.

This is the first time in the history of this province that we have provided a reasonable right for retail workers to say, "We would like, to the greatest extent possible, to make our commit-

ment to Sunday work voluntary." It has not been done here before.

I would suggest to my friend the member for Nipissing that he now study the legislation. It is time for the rhetoric to be over and for us to sit down and try to pass this bill, which will be historic in this province.

Mr. Harris: The minister is right, some do have to work. They do not appreciate it, but they appreciate it when their spouses do not have to work on the Sundays they do get off. The minister is trying to expand what is a difficult situation for some people right now.

Let me follow up with my question, since he did not answer the first one. I think the answer is obvious. Somebody is going to spend \$200,000, \$300,000 or \$400,000 on lawyers and arbitration and there will not be any answer, as there will not be for many of the situations.

Let me ask the minister this. North Bay does have wide-open Sunday shopping. Follis Shoes does have to open on Main Street on Sunday. Somebody has to go in there and work. The day care centres have to open. More bus drivers have to drive. What protection is the minister offering, not just for the retail workers, but the day care workers, the bank tellers, extra service industry staff, gas attendants, municipal workers, cleaners, baby-sitters, transit workers, utility workers, postal and courier service workers, delivery service workers, who, the estimates says, are more than the number of retail workers put together in this province?

Hon. Mr. Scott: You're the trade union's party. You've just switched places.

Mr. B. Rae: You're just laying the groundwork for when you go to private practice.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Mr. Speaker, I do not think they want to hear an answer.

I guess if, as an opposition member, when you are looking at a piece of legislation like this which really does break new ground, if you do not have anything bad to say about it, you will say that it should do a whole lot more.

In this initiative, the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) and I were given the responsibility for dealing with a particular sector. This bill deals with that sector. The fact is that it deals with that sector in appropriate ways.

Mr. Harris: The fact is that when a responsible government is dealing with 10 per cent of the workforce and a massive change in direction for 10 per cent of the workforce, and that impacts on another 20 per cent of the workforce, somebody

should be thinking about that other 20 per cent. I think that is being responsible.

Really, I think most objective observers would say that what we have seen today is a political charade, particularly from the Minister of Labour. First, I ask him, to carry out this political charade, who is going to pay the costs of the arbitration and the lawyers to take it through that one-year or two-year period? Who is going to pay that cost for the employees and the employer? Second, could he tell us the estimate that he has of how much it is going to cost to implement this whole charade and shemozzle in this province?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: When the member talks about charades, I think the spotlight is going to fall squarely on the Progressive Conservative Party. That party has been attempting for the past several months to declare the end of civilization, the end of family values if municipalities are given the opportunity to expand or indeed contract from a provincial framework. It has been trying to defend a provincial framework for Sunday openings that they know is unworkable and that has been the subject of abuse in virtually every single community around the province.

Mr. Harris: For the last two years since this Attorney General assumed office. That's when it started. Since you took office.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I invite them now to end the charade and get down to work, as the reasonable parliamentarians they are, and examine the legislation, make comment on it, here during second reading and indeed in committee. I think when they do that they will find that both the Solicitor General's bill and my bill have resolved an issue that has, frankly, been very difficult for us all.

1440

Mr. Pouliot: My question is to the Solicitor General. Can the Solicitor General confirm that the cabinet will be responsible for regulating Sunday shopping in the many small unorganized communities in northern Ontario; and if so, can she indicate whether or not Sunday shopping will be allowed in those small communities in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The areas will be governed exactly as they are governed now in other areas of hours, and so on and so forth, by request to the cabinet.

Mr. Wildman: If we could help the Solicitor General, an unorganized community has no municipal council. Who, therefore, is going to request to the cabinet with regard to the

regulation of Sunday shopping? Who is going to extend that request to the cabinet; and can she tell us now what her response would be if some individual store owner, for instance, in an unorganized community requested the right to stay open on Sunday?

Mr. Eves: Never thought of it. They don't know.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I gave an extensive answer to this before, and I am glad to remind the members of how this works. We have had no problem with it and no complaints.

The unorganized territories can make a request of the Lieutenant Governor. They can write a letter; they can pick up the phone—whichever wishes the change. The MPP can make the request. The store can make a request. By and large, the unorganized territories' stores are in the reserves and they have no problem.

Interjections.

Mr. Brandt: You don't even know what you're talking about. That's bloody silly.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, it is not—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: It is sad.

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Premier. In the Ottawa-Carleton area and in eastern Ontario, there is overwhelming opposition to this legislation. In fact, the Ottawa Board of Trade is about 70 to 75 per cent opposed to it.

Under the legislation as proposed, as I understand it, the government is offering to the various municipalities across the province the option of taking this as a municipal option or leaving it in the provincial sphere. If we all consider the fact that it is necessary to protect employees, for instance, in terms of working on Sundays, etc.—and I do not see that the needs of a family in Toronto are any different than they are in Manotick, where I live—if there are two options, why do we not just stay with one option, the provincial option, and work together to create a fair and equitable law? If the government claims that this is enforceable, why do we not just go with the provincial model? Who wants the municipal option?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We needed a fair, enforceable, clear law. My honourable friend says that people in Ottawa-Carleton county do not want it. That is fine. If they do not want to bring in a bylaw, that is quite all right; but if they

want to have a bylaw to open up the market, as they have in the past, as a tourist exemption, they can. If they come to the conclusion they want to open up Sparks Street but not other areas, they can do that. Now tell me what is so unreasonable about that.

Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I hope by way of supplementary.

Mr. Sterling: I wish the Premier would address himself to the question in terms of the provincial versus the municipal model. It is no secret that, in the eastern Ontario area, many of the Premier's caucus members oppose his moves with regard to opening up Sunday shopping. In fact, I was told this morning by two prominent Liberals that well over 50 per cent of the Ottawa and eastern Ontario members oppose this piece of legislation.

An hon. member: They could not have been Liberals.

Mr. Sterling: I am talking about the Liberals. When we force this out to committee, there are going to be seven Liberals on the committee, two Conservatives and two New Democrats. Will the Premier permit his Liberal members in the committee to vote with their conscience on this particular bill or is he going to hamstring them in terms of following the government line on this?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not hamstring anybody and they will all express their own views in this situation. The committee will function as they usually do around here. It goes back to my honourable friend's first question. He puts it in the context of his own community, and surely that is an example that we can all understand and one that illustrates the point of this government. We had a law that was unenforceable. We had people jumping over ropes, people changing the size of their store, putting up crates, crawling under ropes, crawling over ropes and all of that kind of thing.

Now it is clear and defined for all. It also allows those exceptions. Is the member prepared to go back to his colleagues and friends in Ottawa and say, "Close down the market on Sundays?" Does he think that is a good idea? If he does, then he is superimposing his views on the people of the Ottawa-Carleton region. They have the right to make that determination. If they choose to open or open parts of it, then they will do so. That does not interfere with the people of Gananoque, who choose to open, or Kingston, who do not, or Picton or Niagara-on-the-Lake or anywhere else. It is working extremely well in other provinces.

I know there is a temptation for my friends opposite in the opposition because, Lord knows, I toiled a long time there and, with any luck, will not be back. I understand the temptation to overdramatize. I understand the temptation just to oppose for the sake of opposing. I understand the desire to overdramatize all of these issues, but my honourable friends are wrong in the way they are characterizing it. I invite them to look at this legislation fairly. Look at other jurisdictions.

Mr. Brandt: We have.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member has not looked at it because he has not seen the legislation yet.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Look at the legislation. Look at how it works in other—

Mr. Brandt: The legislation is bad and you're wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sterling: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I thought the Premier asked me a question. Could I respond to that?

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question.

PHYSICIANS' LIABILITY

Mr. Daigeler: My question is to the Minister of Health. Last weekend I took part in a long-term planning session of the Queensway-Carleton Hospital, which is located in my riding. In this exercise, which, by the way, I hope will be repeated in Sarnia and across the province, we were asked to chart the health care future in our community for the next 20 years. A major focus of our attention was, of course, the rising cost of health care. In this regard I was informed that a significant reason for this increase is the fear doctors have of litigation.

In other words, just to be on the safe side in terms of possible negligence suits, doctors will order expensive tests and procedures for which there is no immediate or reasonable medical need. Does the minister agree with this partial explanation of rising health care costs and has her ministry done any investigation into this matter?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The issue that the member raises is really quite an interesting one. We are often comparing our system of health care to that of our neighbours to the south and what we know in fact is that the United States has a much more litigious society than we do here in Canada and we do not in fact have the kind of experience that it does in these matters. I know that many medical professionals have expressed this view, and I think there should be an opportunity in

several forums to have that kind of discussion and debate and determine whether this is an issue for Ontario health care.

1450

Mr. Daigeler: The leaders of the medical community who were with me last weekend argued that doctors would reduce significantly the number of medical procedures to be performed if the government were willing to share in some way in malpractice insurance costs. I would like to ask whether the minister has considered such a possibility and what her reaction is to this idea of providing some government protection for physicians from the threat of unreasonable litigation.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The information I have, and I stand to be corrected, is that the discussions and negotiations between the Ontario Medical Association and the government have included a factor for insurance coverage for doctors. I believe last year we funded some 50 per cent of the cost of liability insurance for physicians, and I believe that is a matter for ongoing discussions and negotiations. The broader issue of litigation within our society is one that I think has broader public policy implications. Those discussions are ones I believe will be fruitful in the future and should be part of a broader public debate.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Philip: I have a question for the Premier. The various trade associations appearing before the select committee on store hours testified that Sunday working legislation, such as what he is introducing today, would increase food prices between six per cent and nine per cent; some estimates were as high as 15 per cent. Does the Premier agree that the retailers, who should know their businesses better than he does, are correct in their estimates of the inflation that would be created by this kind of legislation, and how can he justify passing this kind of inflation and food price increases to the consumers of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member assumes that the whole place is going to open up, and again his assumption is wrong.

Mr. Philip: The municipal option in terms of social policy of this government has been that thousands of people in this province are being fed at least in part by food banks. How can the Premier justify a situation where so many of the people of this province, in London, in Toronto, in Etobicoke, are obtaining part of their food through food banks? How can he possibly justify

putting an increased burden on these people by increasing food prices even further?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not want to be controversial, but I do not think the two have anything to do with each other and I think my honourable friend knows that.

Mr. Pope: My question is addressed to the Solicitor General. I think this is an issue with respect to unorganized territories in this province. It is an issue in which, despite what the Premier said—another one his inaccurate statements on this, among many others—and despite what the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) said, the cabinet will have to apply some values to the issue of Sunday shopping and Sunday working in the unorganized areas of this province. What will the government's policy be? We are entitled to know and so are the people who live there. What is the policy going to be when it is asked by a merchant or a resident to open up for Sunday working? What is the policy going to be in cabinet? We are entitled to know.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Where there is no organization to act on behalf of the people, we would have to consult directly with the people in that territory to see what their wishes were and how best we could fulfil those wishes in keeping with their life.

Mr. Pope: In this new Ontario, where process is more important than values, as the Attorney General is wont to say, from 1983 on, where nothing is absolute and everything is comparative, when society and families cannot look forward to a day of common pause because the Attorney General and Premier want them to work, what rights are the government going to allow the people of unorganized territories? Are they going to have a referendum and the winner takes the issue? If that is the case, why do they not do it province-wide, have a province-wide policy and bring some sanity to the issue? The Attorney General and the Premier are making a hopeless mess out of this and it is affecting workers and families across the province.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The members of the opposition keep referring to us listening to the people and consulting with them. I would remind them how many communities in this province have already made tourist exemptions a part of their bylaws because this was their wish. They suddenly wish to imply that the province should not listen to those people and not respect what they have already enacted in their bylaws. This is nonsense.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Once again I will just have to wait, I guess. I have no choice. There are other members who would like to ask questions.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If you wish to waste the time of the House, go ahead.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. Mahoney: My question is to the Minister of Education. There are a number of teachers, teacher organizations and other professionals in the education system who are concerned about the rising cost of education.

They are also concerned about the lack of a reduction in the gap in the grants between the elementary and secondary school students. In recent years this gap has increased. While the minister's recent announcement to increase grants is appreciated, it appears that it did little to reduce the gap. Could the minister tell this House why the recent grant announcement by the Ministry of Education does not reduce the gap substantially?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I want to indicate to the member that indeed the issue of the gap in grant ceilings between elementary and secondary students in this province has been a matter of ongoing concern. I would point out to the member that the reasons for the differences are indeed well founded in the fact that costs in the secondary panel, such as those relative to plant operation and maintenance, are higher; the instructional costs are higher. Members will be aware that there are also salary differences as a result of differences in qualifications and experience.

I know the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) will be very interested in this. This year's general legislative grant announcement contained a number of initiatives in elementary education, such as a reduction in classroom size in grades 1 and 2 to 20 to one. Rather than put those funds under the grant ceilings, this government chose to place those funds and flow them to boards outside of the ceilings in an effort to ensure that those funds would be applied to the purposes for which they were intended.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It would be most helpful if members would allow other members to speak and to be heard.

Mr. Mahoney: I knew the member for Scarborough West would appreciate a supple-

mentary. I am glad to see him get excited about something in this House.

The same professional groups who have been meeting with a number of us have indicated that they want many of these moneys provided in new dollars for new mandated programs to be tied directly to those programs. So I am sure they will appreciate the minister's answer today.

Can the minister tell us to what extent the gap that I referred to has been reduced by the government and indicate if he sees this as a future trend?

1500

Hon. Mr. Ward: As the member indicates, indeed members of the teaching profession and boards throughout Ontario have consistently been insisting that funds which are mandated as a result of new initiatives be provided in full. In an effort to tie the funding to those initiatives, this year we did extend additional elementary funds outside of the per capita grant ceilings. The impact, for instance, of the 20-to-one initiative results in something in the neighbourhood of \$220 additional funds per additional grade 1 and grade 2 student.

Over the course of the past several years, in real terms the gap has been reduced some 50 per cent. I will try to keep my answer brief, if the member for Scarborough West would stop provoking me. I want to ensure the member for Mississauga West that indeed this government is committed to improving the quality of elementary education in this province and will continue to do so.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I will try to be both laid-back and nice to him in my question.

The minister is aware that the vast majority of workers in the retail field are unorganized, and certainly the smaller shops that will be affected as well are unorganized. He will also be aware, if he has picked up his business in terms of Ministry of Labour work at all, that defining and arguing "unreasonable" has been one of the real problems from day one in terms of the labour movement. With the kind of openings he has given, previous Sunday work and so on, as some of the criteria, it means that ordinary workers are going to have to have guts to begin with to challenge this legislation. They are not going to have a union to help them.

I think the question from the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) was a legitimate one.

Mr. Speaker: What about your question?

Mr. Mackenzie: How are they going to finance this? Will the lawyers' bills be paid by this government, or will the government set up more employment standards officers so they can take the complaints? If the government will, how will it deal with the fact that you now wait three, six or eight months to get a case looked at by the employment standards office in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let me begin by saying that I, for one, would welcome a new era of co-operation and lower tones with my friend the member for Hamilton East, and I think we are going in that direction. He is right, of course, that the vast majority of retail workers are unorganized. He will note, however, in the statutory criteria that will be able to be referenced by a referee, that the question of whether the issue of Sunday work has been considered in the context of a collective agreement is one criteria.

I would also point out to him, because he mentions perhaps the time it might take to get the matter before a mediator, that until the question has been the subject of mediation and, if necessary, the subject of a referee's decision, then the right of the worker to refuse the Sunday work which in his or her view is unreasonable is absolute. I am not terribly concerned about that time frame, although obviously our employment standards officers will have to be there, ready and available.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister obviously has not answered the question as to whether we are going to have a substantial increase in employment standards officers. We need them for the current workload, never mind what will happen here.

In another case, what is the minister going to do? Once again, will the bills be paid in a very long case where a worker currently, and this is a problem in the retail trade, has been working 16 or 20 hours at most and refuses Sunday work, the employer is very nice about it and says, "Fine, you do not have to work," but the worker finds subsequently that he is only working eight or 12 hours? That is going to be extremely difficult to prove and it is going to be expensive as well.

Are those costs going to be covered or is it just, "Tough luck, we can't do anything about it for you"?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: In designing remedies under this act, we have picked a system that both organized workers and unorganized workers are familiar with.

The employment standards branch deals with issues similar to this on innumerable occasions.

There is a different point to be made under this bill. What we are doing here, among other things, along with providing statutory relief, is to send out a clear signal to the employers of this province in the retail sector whose businesses are open on Sunday that there is a different standard. We expect that under this system, we will have a workforce working on Sunday in the retail sector which, by and large, is a voluntary one.

ONTARIO CREAM QUALITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The minister will be aware that grants under the Ontario cream quality assistance program ended on March 31. Phase 3 inspection of those same cream producers began only in November. Does he think it is fair to cut off this grant system when indeed the producers did not really know they had to meet these standards?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: That is the first sensible question that has been asked in the Legislature today. The answer will be very brief so we can give the opposition members a chance to ask more questions on retail store hours.

The cream quality assistance program was not taken up to any great extent by the cream producers. It ran for three years. They chose not to use it, for reasons I do not understand. Therefore, we brought the program to an end.

Mr. Villeneuve: I wish I could say what the good minister said about me regarding his answer, but I am afraid I cannot.

We have some 1,800 cream producers in Ontario, most of whom did not know the government was going to change the requirements to be a cream producer. We have about \$80,000 taken up out of the \$1.5-million program. Would the minister not consider extending it for at least one more year so that these people can rightfully use money that was allotted for them?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I am prepared to consider anything that is reasonable. I will have a look at it, but again it was no surprise that this program was coming to an end as far as the cream producers were concerned. There was a deadline put on the program. It ran for a period of years. They chose not to use it. Very little money was spent under the cream quality program. What is the sense in keeping a program in place if the producers do not choose to use it?

ACID RAIN

Mr. Adams: I have a second sensible question, and it is for the Minister of the

Environment. The Canada-US summit is to be held shortly. What does the minister hope to gain from that summit in terms of acid rain and snow?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Please do not take up all the minister's time.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member for Peterborough has asked appropriately, as he stated, a very good question. We have the summit between the Prime Minister and the President taking place, and it is our hope as a province, and I am sure it is shared by all of Canada, that one of the issues that will be high on the agenda—and I think the Prime Minister has indicated this will be high on the agenda between the President and the Prime Minister—is that of some good, strong acid rain control south of the border.

Unfortunately, to this time, it has been the United States Congress, through members of the House of Representatives and members of the Senate, which has taken the leadership in providing the kind of initiatives necessary to have a meaningful reduction so that the programs we are undertaking in Canada are going to be effective.

It seems to me that if the Prime Minister were to take a very strong stand, if in his post-summit press conference with the President he were to very publicly indicate to the American public and to ours how high a priority Canadians see acid rain abatement as being, we would certainly be satisfied with that, particularly if it were to result in a meaningful program south of the border—not just a declaration, but a meaningful program.

1510

Mr. Adams: I guess we could describe that as the long from the short of it. It is often pointed out that our strength in argument at summits of this type depends on the cleanliness of our own house. Is the minister sure that this time we can argue from a position of strength with respect to what we have done about acid rain and snow?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I think it is important for us to note that, as members of the House on all sides know, south of the border they watch very carefully. Members in the House over the past couple of years have been of assistance in this regard through a committee process in helping us to come out with the best possible environmental policies.

Yes, I can say to the member that I was in Washington just a couple of weeks ago and one of the things that was noted south of the border, of course, was the very strong acid rain program—the Countdown Acid Rain program—

that we have in Ontario, which will have the effect of reducing by 60 per cent in Ontario by 1994 the amount of sulphur dioxide produced from sources in this province.

There is not another jurisdiction in North America that can match that.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Wildman: I have another question to the Solicitor General. Am I to understand correctly from her previous answer that in unorganized communities in northern Ontario she is saying she will somehow consult with the local community if she receives a request from someone, whether it be a store owner or whoever? Could she explain how she will consult and can she confirm that, in effect, what she is saying is there will be wide-open Sunday shopping in the unorganized communities of northern Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I do not know how the first half of that question tied into the second at all. It seemed to jump from a reasonable question to something that followed nowhere.

However, let me repeat that we would consult with the people in a way that was appropriate to the particular circumstances of the petition and of the nature of the petition, just as any municipality would do within its jurisdiction. In the capacity of a local government, we would do whatever we considered wise under those circumstances. I would remind the member that this has never been a problem in the past. It is a problem largely created to talk about for the sake of just talking here.

Mr. Wildman: Would the minister agree that in many cases today there is wide-open Sunday shopping in unorganized communities and, if that is the case, can the minister explain how this government and the cabinet, which is taking the responsibility, will protect workers who believe it is unreasonable for The Bay or whatever store in the unorganized area to require them to work on Sunday? In terms of what is reasonable or unreasonable with regard to my question, she demonstrates the problem with her colleague's bill. What is reasonable is in the eye of the beholder.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I would remind the member, concerning the openness that exists, where it exists, in the unorganized territories, that they will, for the first time, have in their hands a piece of legislation which came from my colleague the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) which will protect the workers in those stores. The stores that he is referring to that are presently open have never had such protection for their

workers before. Now, indeed, under this new bill, they will finally get some protection.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. B. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I want to inform you that I have a number of petitions that have been signed by literally thousands of Ontarians. Pursuant to the standing orders, I would like the opportunity to read the petitions as they have been signed. I know that a number of my colleagues from the New Democratic Party have also received a number of petitions.

I just want to inform the public that this is a historic right of citizens in the province to petition the Legislature, that it is a right that is untrammelled—it is not a by-and-large right, it is established in our own standing orders—and that I would encourage citizens to continue to sign petitions dealing with this question of working on Sunday.

Mr. Speaker: Petitions.

Mr. B. Rae: The petition is as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows, 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows, 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act or other legislation relating to holidays should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

That is the first petition. It is signed by delegates to the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto.

I also have a petition which I would like to present to the House that is signed by over 4,000 people. It states, quite simply, as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We love our families. Don't legislate employees to work on Sundays. We don't need wide-open Sunday shopping."

It is signed, as I say, by some 4,000-plus individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I think I will leave it at that for the moment but would advise you that I do have other petitions to read and would appreciate the opportunity of being recognized as the proceedings of the House unfold in presenting to you this petition, reminding you, sir, of the historic right of the citizens of this province to petition in an unlimited and untrammelled fashion the legislators of this province when they feel their rights are being abused, as they so clearly are by the Liberal government of Ontario.

Mr. Brandt: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: There are a number of petitions, I believe, from what I can see, in both parties. I wonder if it might, in fairness, be better and more organized if we were to move between the parties and allow the official opposition to go first, and then we could rotate to the third party? Would that be agreeable?

Mr. Speaker: It seems like a most fair request.

1520

Mr. Brandt: In light of that, I thank the members of the New Democratic Party.

I would like to place before the House a number of petitions, the first of which is:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's plans to change retail store hours will transfer Sunday into just another day for doing business, we request that consideration be given to the views of the 6,248 people from the Kingston area who have signed a petition circulated by the Kingston Canadian Tire store, which reads, in part, as follows: 'Give me a break. We don't need wide-open Sunday shopping.'"

The second is:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Ontario's municipalities are opposed to the Peterson local option for Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of over 400 persons, collected by the township of Kingston, who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows: 'Do the right thing. Say 'No' to Sunday shopping.'"

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the all-party committee of the Legislature on retail store hours unanimously recommended a common pause day so that families can get together, and;

"Whereas the Solicitor General, Joan Smith, signed that committee report but now has failed to live by its recommendations, we request that consideration be given to the views of several hundred persons employed by Eaton's in the Toronto area who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"The public currently enjoys about 80 shopping hours per week. By adding half a dozen more, it won't really improve their lifestyle but it will certainly impact on ours. We urge you to seriously reconsider your proposal to pass responsibility for the final decision to the municipalities.'"

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas David Peterson's wide-open Sunday shopping will erode the tradition of a common day of rest and the cohesiveness of the family unit, we request that consideration be given to the views of several hundred persons from across Ontario who have signed a petition which, in part, reads as follows: 'We, the undersigned, feel that Sunday is a common day families are able to plan and spend together.'"

With the consideration of my friends in the official opposition, I have three short ones containing a few hundred more names, and if I could go through those, then, certainly, they may have the floor again.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's plan to change retail store hours will transfer Sunday into just another day for doing business, we request that consideration be given to the views of several hundred persons from the session and congregation of Eastmount Presbyterian Church in Hamilton, Ontario, who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"The undersigned of this congregation consider that legislative authority should remain the responsibility of the provincial government. Furthermore, the Eastmount congregation does not support the extension of Sunday shopping in Ontario.'"

An hon. member: There are lots of Presbyterians.

Mr. Brandt: There are lots of people who are in opposition to a certain piece of legislation that is coming forward as well, as you can see.

Mr. Speaker: And the petition reads?

Mr. Brandt: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Liberal government of David Peterson does not support the principle of a common pause day in Ontario, we request that consideration be given to the views of several hundred persons from the London area who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"It is our moral belief that the Sabbath remain a family day. In this fast-changing world, let us not become so money oriented that we forget to use this day as it was intended.'"

Mr. Speaker: And finally?

Mr. Brandt: And finally, Mr. Speaker, and I know my colleagues in my party have many more and I am sure the members of the official opposition have others as well—

Mr. Speaker: And the petition is?

Mr. Brandt: This too is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's proposal for Sunday shopping does not mean more business, but rather the same business spread over seven instead of six days, thereby increasing costs for both retailers and consumers, we request that consideration be given to the views of 300 persons from the Frontier Fruit and Nut Company in the Kingston area who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"When the shopping centres decided to stay open for five or six nights a week as opposed to two nights, there was very little or no more money made. The customers spread themselves out. It is also costly to the retailer to stay open. Sunday openings are not going to help sales at all and it takes the retailer away from home and family.

"Surely people can do the necessary shopping in six days, not seven."

Thank you very much for your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, and members of the New Democratic Party as well.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a petition from certain individuals in the city of Toronto and Metropolitan Toronto. It reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on

working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. Speaker: That is signed by the member?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, according to standing order 31, and I have tried to maintain my remarks to just 31(b).

Mr. Harris: I would like to present a petition. It reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Liberal government of David Peterson does not support the principle of a common pause day in Ontario, we request that consideration be given to the views of these persons from North Bay who have signed a petition which reads in part as follows:

"In recognition of the importance of a day of pause in our Canadian society, we ask that the Retail Business Holidays Act be maintained and strengthened, that the act remain under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Legislature rather than be transferred to local municipalities for administration."

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by, I would say, 35 residents of the city of North Bay. It is duly signed, although not witnessed, by the member for Nipissing, but I assure you it is my signature.

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition from 26 members of the MacNeill Baptist Church at 1145 King Street West in Hamilton. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to

municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

THERAPY FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

Mr. M. C. Ray: I have a petition as well, on another subject though, from an organization in Windsor known as Save Our Children, petitioning the Legislature to bring forth legislation which would make mandatory now discretionary sexual abuse treatment programs for the child victims of sexual abuse. It is signed by 1,506 residents of Windsor and is addressed to this assembly.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Pope: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the member for Middlesex, the member for Durham Centre, the member for Peterborough and the member for Cornwall, all Liberal members of this Legislature, have endorsed petitions opposed to Sunday shopping; and

"Whereas the Premier has chosen to push on with legislation contrary to the personal wishes of his own caucus, we request that consideration be given to the views of three persons from Timmins who have signed a petition which reads, in part:

"I am writing this letter to the proposed opening or closing of stores on Sundays and

statutory holidays. Exception to this is convenience stores, which would lose their small businesses if larger stores were to open.

"I disagree very much as to store opening on Sundays. This is and always will be, to most people, a family day. People have adequate time to shop, I feel, within the six day-and-night shopping hours that we already have now. Isn't it time to put your foot down and say enough of this?

"Working parents right now have too much time away from their family without making them work on Sundays too. Most working parents have a hard time as it is finding adequate day care, without having to find it for their children on Sundays also. There is so much problems and stress for our young people. Wouldn't taking their parents away from them to work on Sundays create even more of a problem?

"This being a national issue, I feel that the federal government as well as the provincial government should not pass in any way the buck of Sunday openings to the municipalities to decide on this issue.

"I vote no for Sunday openings. Please add my name to the list of those who oppose Sunday store openings. I believe that the opening of retail stores on Sundays can result in higher costs of operation, therefore higher prices. It can also hurt those convenience store operators who depend on these days to do their business, and especially, I feel that Sunday shopping can take too much away from the time families can spend together. We do not need to have stores open seven days a week.

"I feel we, the working people, should indeed have a day of rest. Sunday should remain as it is, closed, and I emphasize the word "closed."

Mr. Speaker: That is signed by how many people?

Mr. Pope: It is signed by myself as the member, and as I indicated in my preamble, it is signed by three residents of Timmins in the riding of Cochrane South.

I have another petition:

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario, as follows:

"Whereas David Peterson's wide-open Sunday shopping will erode the tradition of a common day of rest and the cohesiveness of the family unit, we request that consideration be given to the views of seven persons from Timmins in the riding of Cochrane South who

have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"I feel we, the working people, should indeed have a day of rest. Sunday should remain as it is, closed, and I emphasize the word 'closed.'"

That petition is signed by myself, as the member for Cochrane South, and the papers attached to it, not all of which I will read, have been signed personally by seven residents of Timmins in the riding of Cochrane South.

I have a further petition:

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario, as follows:

"Whereas David Peterson's plan to change retail store hours will transform Sunday into just another day for doing business, we request that consideration be given to the views of seven persons from Timmins in the riding of Cochrane South who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"...we, the working people, should indeed have a day of rest. Sunday should remain as it is, closed, and I emphasize the word "closed.""

That petition is signed by myself, as the member for Cochrane South, and attached to it are documents, not all of which I will read, signed personally by seven residents of Timmins in the riding of Cochrane South.

I have a further petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario, as follows:

"Whereas individuals need a regular, consistent opportunity for rest and recreation, and whereas an open Sunday will erode that opportunity greatly, we request that consideration be given to the views of four persons from Timmins in the riding of Cochrane South who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"I feel we, the working people, should indeed have a day of rest. Sunday should remain as it is, closed, and I emphasize the word 'closed.' I feel that there are enough shopping hours Monday to Saturday and evenings without being open Sundays also."

That petition is signed by myself as the local member and the documents attached to it, which I will not read into the record, have been personally signed by residents of the city of Timmins in the riding of Cochrane South.

I have a further petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's proposal for Sunday shopping does not mean more business, but rather the same business spread over seven instead of six days, thereby increasing costs for both retailers and consumers, we request that consideration be given to the views of five persons from Timmins in the riding of Cochrane South who have signed a petition which reads in part as follows:

"I feel we, the working people, should indeed have a day of rest. Sunday should remain as it is, closed, and I emphasize the word 'closed.' Sunday is the only day that families have to relax and be together. Shopping hours on Sunday would take away from this as various family members would have to work."

That petition is signed by myself as the local member and attached to it are documents personally signed by five residents of the city of Timmins in the riding of Cochrane South.

I have a further petition addressed as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Ontario's municipalities are opposed to the Peterson local option for Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of 12 persons from Timmins in the riding of Cochrane South who have signed a petition which reads in part as follows:

"I feel we, the working people, should indeed have a day of rest. Sunday should remain as it is, closed, and I emphasize the word 'closed.'"

There are additional notes attached to this, but suffice it to say that I have signed the document as the member for Cochrane South. Attached to it are documents that have been personally signed by 12 residents of the city of Timmins who have indicated their displeasure on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: There is some agreement on rotation.

Mr. Pope: Then I will continue later.

Mr. Laughren: After all these years here, I am pleased to be a part of such an historic occasion.

Mr. Speaker: And the petition reads?

Mr. Laughren: The petition reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to challenge the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario;' and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government;' and

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario;' and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario"—commonly known as AMO—"has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals, have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent"—some of them as recent as today—"but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. Runciman: I have a number of petitions from my riding. This is one from residents of Brockville.

"To His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's proposal for Sunday shopping does not mean more business, but rather the same business spread over seven instead of six days, thereby increasing costs for both retailers and consumers, we request that consideration be given to the views of 57 persons from Leeds-Grenville who have signed a petition which reads in part as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees, who will have to spend Sunday at work instead of with their families."

That was 57 persons from the Brockville area.

I have another petition. This one is from residents of the Merrickville area, which is on the Rideau system.

"To His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"With reference to the above"—Sunday opening of business—"the undersigned members of Merrickville Senior Citizens Club 74 wish to state that we are opposed to Sunday opening of business, except for essential services. We make this appeal to you on humanitarian grounds, as well as our religious beliefs."

That is signed by in excess of 40 members of the Senior Citizens Club 74 of Merrickville, Ontario. It is on the Rideau system, just east of Smiths Falls.

1550

Another group of petitions: From the Prescott IGA store in that wonderful community, which reads as follows:

"To His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson has refused to listen to the people of Ontario and has chosen to unilaterally impose Sunday shopping on an unwilling public, we request that consideration be given to the views of persons from the Prescott area who have signed a petition as follows:

"Dear MPP, we do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families. Show us you care about your constituents. Stop Sunday shopping.'"

I have one more, again from Brockville. This is again addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the majority of Ontarians want family time together and not wide-open Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of 55 persons from the Brockville district who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

That is signed by 55 residents of the Brockville area.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. I will try to pick up the pace but not too much.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Tell us what you really think, David.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What I really think? Well—

Hon. Mr. Conway: The Windsor Star has one version of that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That was before the select committee. The one thing about this party is that when we refer it out to committee, we go along with the committee and the unanimous decisions of select committees in this parliament.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member will address his petition to the Speaker.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but I am being provoked by a government House leader who ignores the committees of the Legislature.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'—

I think we should be pausing a lot while we are reading these petitions.

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported"—and I have already read this paragraph—"unanimously in the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of "wide-open" Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that "wide-open" Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our "fast-paced society" and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that "wide-open" Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly it is recognized that on Sunday child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family, which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent"—and in fact today's legislation—"but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under

provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson has refused to listen to the people of Ontario and has chosen to unilaterally impose Sunday shopping on an unwilling public, we request that consideration be given to the views of 47 persons from the First United Church, Port Credit, Mississauga, who have signed a petition which reads as follows;

"We love our families. Don't legislate employees to work on Sundays. We don't need wide-open Sunday shopping."

1600

I have a second petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Liberal government of David Peterson does not support the principle of a common pause day in Ontario, we request that consideration be given to the views" of the following persons, who state in this petition:

"As a family, father, mother, son, 20, and three daughters aged 18, 16 and 14 years, we would like to voice our opposition to Sunday shopping. We feel that Sunday should be a day of rest, when no one should feel or be obliged to work. Opening stores on Sunday will not increase the volume of business done, only spread it out over seven days instead of six. This has been proven by numerous banks, which now have longer hours during the week.

"Employees of all grades will feel the pressure of having to work Sundays or some Sundays and face possible or probable discrimination if they do not wish to do so. Sunday, as the traditional day when families meet and relax, will be destroyed slowly but surely.

"Think, too, of the numerous small, independent merchants who cannot afford the expense of hiring more staff just for Sundays. They will either have to work seven days a week or continue to work six days a week and lose to the larger stores.

"Finally, as Christians, we feel that Sunday is a day of rest and prayer, a special day that should not be allowed to become just another day in this

materialistic world. We can appreciate that it is difficult for some people to get their shopping done, but this is not true of all people all of the time. There must surely be other ways of resolving this problem without having to resort to Sunday shopping.

"Necessity is the mother of invention. Let us try to be inventive and not destructive. The family unit faces so many other disruptive forces in this modern, progressive age. Let us not add another."

That is signed by two people.

Mr. B. Rae: I have a petition, prefaced by a letter signed by Dr. Michael Farris, who is the associate minister of St. Andrew's Church, 75 Simcoe Street, Toronto, and cosigned by Dorothy Herbert, who is an elder and member of the presbytery church and society committee, which contains some 246 signatures in a petition, which petition reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, wish to express our opposition to changes in Sunday shopping laws, which threaten to transform Sunday into just another day for doing business.

"The undersigned are in favour of limiting Sunday shopping for the following reasons:

"1. As Christians in the reformed tradition, we value Sunday as a day for worship and rest.

"2. Regardless of religion, families need a regular patterned opportunity for the whole family to share time.

"3. Regardless of religion, individuals need a regular, consistent opportunity for rest and recreation. An open Sunday will erode that greatly."

I have a petition signed by individual delegates to the Metropolitan Toronto Labour Council, which reads as follows:

"To His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as

follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of "wide-open" Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to 'wide-open' Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition signed by 34 residents of Ontario and addressed as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated that they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of "wide-open" Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire'; and"

The House leader is very distracting as one reads these very important petitions into the record.

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it would lead precisely to 'wide-open' Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. Cureatz: Surprisingly enough, I have the wonderful opportunity of being present in these chambers this afternoon so that I might participate in the democratic process which falls under the business for Thursday, April 14, 1988, the rules of business whereby—

Hon. Mr. Conway: Order.

Mr. Cureatz: I can only say to the honourable House leader that if he were the Speaker, he

would have the opportunity of calling me to order—

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order.

Mr. Cureatz: —whereas, you are the Speaker.
1610

The Acting Speaker: You have had many years of experience in this House, and I am sure the member is coming quickly to the petition he has to present, or the many petitions he wishes to spend his time on.

Mr. Cureatz: Coincidentally enough, Madam Speaker, I am flabbergasted in terms of your prescience of my presenting a petition, and I can only say it must be some intuitive woman's intuition that has brought you forward in anticipation of what I am about to do. You are, of course, exactly right that I am about to follow the order of business, which, if you notice, takes place under "Afternoon Sitting, Routine Proceedings," whereby, of course, we followed through members' statements, statements by the ministry, oral questions, poor responses and, lastly, petitions.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity of standing in my place here representing all the people of Durham East—

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cureatz: —notwithstanding interjections, so that I might participate in this democratic process. I appreciate your calling these chambers to order so that I might be heard.

The Acting Speaker: I would also call the honourable member to order and to complete his dissertation and get on with his petitions. Thank you.

Mr. Cureatz: Funnily enough, Madam Speaker, I would like to present a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Mr. Allen: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: Did I understand you to imply that somewhere in the order list of proceedings there is an item for dissertations as well?

The Acting Speaker: No. Thank you very much for your comments. I would request the member for Durham East to continue.

Mr. Cureatz: It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows."

I ask the House leader to listen attentively to this petition, since he is the only minister of any kind of capacity here in these chambers.

The petition reads as follows:

"Families their with of instead work at Sunday's spend to have will who employees retail province's the of position the in yourself put. Shopping Sunday want nor need not do we. Follows as, part in reads which petition a signed have who persons 50 of views the to given be consideration that request we, caucus own, his own wishes. Premier that whereas in shopping Sunday to oppose petitions, endorsed have Legislature this of members of the Liberal Party of Cornwall"—

The Acting Speaker: Order. I assume the honourable member is aware that he is responsible for what is in the petition, as you look at the standing orders. I hope you know that you are reading it in a manner which I assume is written in front of you and that you are responsible for that.

Mr. Cureatz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am glad you have brought that to my attention. It is my responsibility, therefore, to re-examine the said petition so that I might in a manner make it clear to you so that you might understand. I have no other choice then but to start again:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the member for Middlesex, the member for Durham Centre, the member for Peterborough, and the member for Cornwall, all Liberal members of this Legislature, have endorsed petitions opposed to Sunday shopping and, whereas the Premier has chosen to push on with this legislation contrary to the personal wishes of his own caucus"—I bet they had a vote in there and it was against it—"we request that consideration be given to the views of 50 persons from across Ontario who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

Coincidentally enough, I had the opportunity of being approached by one of my own colleagues of the assembly, the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson), who was predisposed with an appointment in his office with a delegation concerning educational problems, as he is critic for the Ministry of Education. My colleague has asked me to bring forward a further petition, which reads, to refresh members' memories, as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

In case members have forgotten, it is on behalf of my colleague the member for Burlington South.

"We the undersigned beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We ask the government to consider the views of hundreds of people whose names are attached hereto and who have written to the member for Burlington South to express their opposition full-heartedly to Sunday shopping;

"And we ask the government to respect the wishes of these hundreds of citizens from in"—surrounding, close to, nearly associated—"and about Burlington South who have written to express their opposition to the so-called municipal option and whose names are attached hereto."

Madam Speaker, for your further information and for that of the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer), the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland), the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Sola) and the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney), we have here a petition of 10 pages, and on each page there are nine names, approximately 90 people from the riding of Burlington South.

Mr. Breaugh: I want to present a petition which was circulated in Oshawa by Alderman Brian Nicholson and presented to me. It is signed by 9,988 residents of Oshawa:

"Whereas the province of Ontario has announced its intention to allow municipalities the right to permit retail shopping on Sundays, and

"Whereas retail shopping on Sundays is disruptive to the personal lifestyle of employees and their families and has a negative impact on the social fabric of our community,

"We, the undersigned, wish to express our opposition to the city of Oshawa allowing retail shopping on Sundays within the boundaries of the city of Oshawa."

1620

I have a further petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'the committee unanimously rejects the notion of "wide-open" Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that "wide-open" Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our "fast-paced society" and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that "wide-open" Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly it is recognized that on Sunday child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and

to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. Villeneuve: I, too, have a number of petitions that I wish to make this Legislature very well aware of. The first is from the London area and it reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson wants world-class Sunday shopping, but the people of Ontario do not, we request that consideration be given to the views of 57 persons from across Ontario who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

Respectfully submitted.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: You say that's from London.

Mr. Villeneuve: Yes, that was from the London area.

I have another one which is spread further across the province. I am sure it covers many areas which Liberal back-benchers represent. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows."

L'hon. M. Conway: En français, s'il vous plaît.

M. Villeneuve: J'en ai en masse en français, Monsieur Conway, et je vais vous les lire prochainement.

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's plan to change retail store hours will transform Sunday into just another day for doing business, we request that consideration be given to the views of 56 people from across Ontario who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

Respectfully submitted.

I have a further petition very much in the same vein.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Sunday shopping will impact negatively on single-parent families, we request that consideration be given to the views of 55 people whose names are attached hereto, from across Ontario, who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need or want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families.

"Respectfully submitted."

These are all signed by residents of Ontario, taxpayers and voters.

Interjections.

Mr. Villeneuve: If it is a joke with the Liberal back-benchers, it is not a joke with this side.

The next petition reads as follows:

"To His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the member for Middlesex, the member for Durham Centre, the member for Peterborough, the member for Cornwall, all Liberal members of this Legislature, have endorsed petitions opposed to Sunday shopping;

"And whereas the Premier has chosen to push on with legislation contrary to the personal wishes of his own caucus;

"We request that consideration be given to the views of 50 persons from across Ontario whose names are attached hereto, who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

Interjections.

Mr. Villeneuve: This is not a joke. It is respectfully submitted.

Mr. Laughren: Madam Speaker, on a point of privilege: I wonder if you and other members in the assembly this afternoon would join with me in welcoming to the assembly this afternoon the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell).

The Acting Speaker: That is not a point of privilege.

Mr. Reville: I have a petition that reads as follows:

"To His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the

legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours," on which I sat, "representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays should remain that of the provincial government;' and

"Whereas the report also said: 'the committee unanimously rejects the notion of 'wide-open' Sunday shopping for Ontario;' and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to 'wide-open' Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have signed this according to the custom. It has also been signed by two residents of Toronto.

1630

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have several petitions that I would like to read.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the all-party committee of the Legislature on retail store hours unanimously recommended a common pause day so that families can get together and whereas the Solicitor General, Joan Smith, signed the recommendations, we request that consideration be given to the views of 56 persons from London who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

This is signed by myself. I think it should be delivered to the table, and maybe the Solicitor General should have a copy for her own information.

I have another petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson has refused to listen"—can members imagine that?—"to the people of Ontario and has chosen to impose Sunday shopping on an unwilling public, we request that consideration be given to the views of 49 persons from across Ontario who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping."—Does the House leader hear that?—"Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

That too is signed by myself.

I have one more petition at the present time.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Ontario's municipalities are opposed to the Peterson local option for Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of 55 persons from St. Thomas who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I hope that the House leader picked up at least a part of the petitions that have been presented.

Mr. Mackenzie: Just as the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has his Earl's Shell station to gauge the feeling of the public, I have my Hamilton Mountain ladies' bowling league to drop in on. I get a very good sense of what the public is saying.

This particular petition, one of several that has come from this group, is from the Hamilton Mountain ladies' bowling league, the Monday night league in Hamilton. It simply says:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and"—

Mr. Swart: Who was on that committee?

Mr. Mackenzie: I think the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) was on it.

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'"—unanimously—"and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely

to 'wide-open' Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and for working families in Ontario."

That is signed by 10 women, mostly the team captains and the Hamilton Mountain Monday night bowling league.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: Under clause 31(g) of the standing orders, I wonder if it would be possible to ask the Clerk to reread that petition because the member for Hamilton East spoke so quickly I was not able to follow it.

1640

The Acting Speaker: Having reviewed that order, it does not indicate that it must be read out loud. It indicates it must be read by them, whether they read it at the table or thereafter. I rule that indeed it is not necessary for it to be read out loud.

Are there any other petitions?

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition. Surprisingly enough, it is on Sunday shopping.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas individuals need a regular consistent opportunity for rest and recreation and whereas an open Sunday will erode that opportunity greatly, we request that consideration be given to the views of 52 persons from London who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I have signed this and, as I said, it was signed by 52 people.

Mr. Cureatz: What is it again?

Mr. Pollock: It is a petition on Sunday shopping.

Mr. Cureatz: Oh. Thank you.

Mr. Pollock: I have another petition. Does Madam Speaker want me to wait until she gets done visiting?

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Ontario municipalities are opposed to the Peterson local option for Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of 54 persons from London who have signed the petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

That is signed by 54 people and I have signed it myself.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do you have another petition?

Mr. Pollock: Yes, I have one. Can I present it now?

Mr. Speaker: Go ahead.

Mr. Pollock: The official opposition wants the floor, but I only have one petition to present right now.

Mr. Speaker: Place your petition.

Mr. Pollock: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's proposal for Sunday shopping does not mean more business, but rather the same business spread over seven instead of six days, thereby increasing costs for both retailers and consumers, we request that consideration be given to the views of 44 persons from London who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

As I mentioned, this is signed by 44 people and I have signed it myself.

I have more petitions but I am going to give up some of my time to the official opposition.

Mr. Speaker: I believe there was an agreement earlier.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, you will know that it was I who first presented a petition in this

Legislature with 20,000 names on it from the Niagara Peninsula in opposition to Sunday shopping. I sort of started this avalanche and I would like—

Mr. Speaker: Would you continue, please.

Mr. Swart: Thank you. I thought maybe you were going to shut me off. I am glad to see the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) here because he knows how seriously this is considered down in the Niagara Peninsula, where there is tremendous opposition to it.

Mr. Speaker, I have to inform you too that somehow or other I just mislaid my glasses, but I am going to do the best I can.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the petitioners would like you to place it on the record.

Mr. Swart: They would. That is why I am going to try to do the best I can even though I have lost my glasses or misplaced them. This says:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and”—

Mr. Pollock: Can we have that in writing?

Mr. Swart: Thank you, but that will not help any. I have misplaced my glasses and I am trying to do the best I can.

“Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government’s intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don’t want it; and

“Whereas the Legislature’s select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature”—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Swart: My eyes are not normally that bad. If you will give me a minute to get them focused, I will continue, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Swart: As soon as I find the spot I was at.

“...representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: ‘The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario’; and

“Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee’s report was as follows: ‘The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government’; and

“Whereas the report also said: ‘The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario’; and

“Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

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“Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly intimated their opposition to the government’s intentions on the basis that it will lead, ultimately, precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people”—

Mr. Ballinger: I gave up a job for this?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The member can go back whenever he wants.

Mr. Swart: When this is over, the member will be back there.

“Whereas the government’s stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario.”

This is signed by six people. At the rate the petitions are coming in on my desk, I may not be able to read them as fast as they are coming, so I had better sit down and let somebody else do the next one.

Mr. Cousens: I have a petition from the members and adherents of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Markham.

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave”—

Mr. Faubert: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: According to section 1(b) of the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly, you have the right to rule on any contingencies not provided for in the standing orders.

I understand this reading of petitions on a continuous basis is a clear abuse of the process of this House and I request—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Faubert: So that we can get on with the business of debating this legislation, may I, Mr. Speaker, request that you rule on this and that you accept these petitions as read, both those that are read and presented, and pending.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am absolutely flabbergasted. I am shocked that the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert) is asking you to consider for even one instant shortening or deleting or cutting off the most democratic right the people of this province have; that being the right to petition this parliament and this Legislature in Ontario.

There is no right, absolutely no right, which is more important to the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker: Order. You have made your point.

Mr. Mackenzie: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The previous member for that riding would have defended the rights of ordinary people. It has taken less than two hours for this member to try to move a form of closure in this House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I remind all members that you, as members, agreed and formed the standing orders that are here before you. The Speaker is here to maintain those orders and to make certain that all members have the right to speak and to be heard. It is very difficult for the Speaker to stop a member from presenting a petition until that petition is heard.

I know in the last instance I was almost ready to suggest that we should go to 31(g), "Every petition that is in order should be brought to the table and read by the Clerk if required." However, the member got through it all right, and I think we will continue. I recognize the member for Markham.

Mr. Cousens: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your ruling. I think it is important that the democratic rights of all the people of this province continue, regardless of what party they are in.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Maybe I should just read to you 31(b), "A member may present a petition from his place in the House during the routine proceedings under the proceeding 'Petitions.' He shall endorse his name thereon and confine himself to a statement of the petitioners, the number of signatures and the material allegations."

Please present your petition, and we would appreciate it if you did not make any other comments.

Mr. Cousens: "To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson has refused to listen to the people of Ontario and has chosen to unilaterally impose Sunday shopping on an unwilling public, we request that consideration be given to the views of the 15 persons from the town of Markham from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"The undersigned are in favour of limiting Sunday shopping for the following reasons:

"1. As Christians in the reform tradition, we value Sunday as a day for worship and rest.

"2. Regardless of religion, families need a regular, patterned opportunity for the whole family to share time.

"3. Regardless of religion, individuals need a regular, consistent opportunity for rest and recreation. An open Sunday will erode that opportunity greatly."

Ms. Bryden: Last night I attended a recognition night for senior citizen volunteers, and I must say that without even raising the subject, the question of Sunday shopping came up to me.

Mr. Speaker: And the petition is?

Ms. Bryden: This petition was signed by those people who spoke to me at that meeting.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three

political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

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"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family, which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need 'to ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue, and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I present this petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 30(b) the member for Rainy River (Mr. Hampton) gave notice last Tuesday of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), and this matter will be debated at 6 p.m.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

HEURES OUVRABLES

Mr. McCague: I have a petition signed by 76 residents of Stayner and Wasaga Beach which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are writing in regard to our disapproval of Sunday openings in larger retail outlets in Ontario. The people who are being overlooked in this debate are the ones who have to work. Inconsiderate people are stealing precious time meant to be spent with our family. We feel that there is ample time to shop from Monday through Saturday. Next election, we hear the NDP has a good candidate."

That is dated December 16, 1986, and in most respects they were right.

Mr. Pouliot: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

J'ai une pétition à présenter au lieutenant-gouverneur de la province de l'Ontario.

My petition is in both English and French but, realizing that time is of the essence and French is somewhat longer in its translation, I will read my petition in English. It is very, very small printing. I am asking for patience. English is not my mother tongue.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties"—namely, the Liberal Party of Ontario, the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario and the one party with a social con-

science, the New Democratic Party of Ontario; where was I? This is an important matter here—"in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families, 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families.'" Need I remind the House that quality of time is a derivative of quantity of time?

"And whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and wide-open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family, which is regarded as the key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intention can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them,

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, not to pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue, and

to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families of Ontario."

I have included my signature with the two signatures from the city of Toronto.

TRUSTEE REPRESENTATION

Mr. Pelissero: I would like to present to the Legislature a petition in the form of a resolution from a number of individuals in the riding of Lincoln who wish to express their opposition to proposed changes to the representation of municipalities on school boards as defined under Bill 76.

"Whereas county school boards were established to administer to the needs of the county; and

"Whereas members are now elected by taxpayers in Lincoln county from all municipalities within the county to make up a representative board; and

"Whereas the board must reflect the diversity and uniqueness of the municipalities which it represents; and

"Whereas Bill 76 has the potential of eliminating existing representation in municipalities which are sparsely populated but cover large geographic areas;

"Therefore, be it resolved that the provincial government amend Bill 76 to maintain representation by municipalities on school boards where such representation is presently in effect."

It is signed by 35 individuals.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

HEURES OUVRABLES

Mr. Sterling: I have a petition, and some of the people who signed this petition are actually from the riding of Lincoln, but they have directed these particular petitions to a Conservative member of the Legislature because perhaps they do not feel the government members properly represent them in this fashion.

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Mr. Speaker: And the petition?

Mr. Sterling: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas David Peterson's wide-open Sunday shopping will erode the tradition of a common day of rest and the cohesiveness of the family unit, we request that consideration be given to the views of 53 people from across Ontario, including the community of Brampton,

including the community of Kingston, including the community of Goderich and including the community of Grimsby, who have signed this petition, which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

Mr. Charlton: I have a petition opposed to Sunday shopping from Westmount Baptist Church, signed by 29 members of the congregation.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue, and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have added my signature to this petition.

M. Villeneuve: J'ai une pétition qui se lit comme suit:

«À Son Honneur le lieutenant-gouverneur et l'Assemblée législative de la province de l'Ontario:

«Nous, les soussignés, soumettons la pétition ci-jointe au parlement et à l'Assemblée législative de la province de l'Ontario:

«En autant que le premier ministre de l'Ontario, David Peterson, projette un changement majeur aux commerces et aux détaillants de l'Ontario, avec l'intention de transformer nos dimanches en une journée de commerce ordinaire identique aux autres six jours de la semaine, nous demandons que M. Peterson considère l'opinion de 44 individus qui ont signé la pétition ci-jointe et qui se lit comme suit:

«Nous ne désirons pas le magasinage le dimanche. Considérez la position de ceux qui sont employés dans le commerce de détail, qui seront obligés de passer leurs beaux dimanches à l'ouvrage au lieu de jouir de la présence de leur famille.»

C'est signé par 44 représentants.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a petition here signed by 21 members at the Olivet United Church in Hamilton, Ontario. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and that they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that legislation governing Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening bylaws would set one municipality

against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace. Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to municipalities."

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a further petition, signed by 54 people from across Ontario, most of whom are from the London-Ingersoll area, and it reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas David Peterson's wide-open Sunday shopping will erode the tradition of a common day of rest and the cohesiveness of the family unit, we request that consideration be given to the views of 54 people from across Ontario who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

Respectfully submitted by 54 signers.

Mr. Farnan: I also have a petition, on behalf of St. John's United Church in Cambridge. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, disagree with Sunday shopping. Sunday is the only day of the week that is 'uniformly' a 'day off' for everyone.

"Not only is this a day for families to be together, to worship, relax, take a drive in the country or otherwise just be together, it is a day for neighbours to take a break from daily routine, and say 'Hi' to one another. It's a day for communities to spend time together.

"If we say 'yes' to Sunday shopping, will we also need babysitters for our children while we work? Will we need banks to be open, to get money for our Sunday shopping spree? Will lawyers, dentists, teachers, etc., etc., be required to work regular Sunday hours? This just has a snowball effect, and ultimately our children's futures are being decided here.

"We say, 'no' to Sunday shopping. Please keep Sundays the way they are."

I have added my name to this petition, and I submit it.

Mr. Speaker: I listened carefully. Was that addressed to the Lieutenant Governor?

Mr. Farnan: The petition is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Mr. Eves: I have a petition. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas individuals need a regular, consistent opportunity for rest and recreation; and

"Whereas an open Sunday will erode that opportunity greatly;

"We request that consideration be given to the views of 50 people from across Ontario who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

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I have another petition that reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's proposal for Sunday shopping does not mean more business but rather the same business spread over seven instead of six days, thereby increasing costs for both retailers and consumers, we request that consideration be given to the views of 50 persons from across Ontario who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

Mr. Allen: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. This petition is signed by 52 names and it comes from the Kid's Corner store, one of many businesses that is petitioning the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario through my office. I expect to have many more of these to read into the record and will read those of any who submit them to me.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility into the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario;' and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows, 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays should remain that of the provincial government;' and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario;' and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that the leaving of the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping and thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue, and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families of Ontario."

Mrs. Cunningham: I have a petition, addressed as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson has refused to listen to the people of Ontario and has chosen to unilaterally impose Sunday shopping on an unwilling public, we request that consideration be given to the views of 49 persons from London who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I present that and I have signed it.

I have another petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Liberal government of David Peterson does not support the principle of a common pause day in Ontario, we request that consideration be given to the views of 54 persons from London, who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I have signed this and I will pass it on for the record.

Mr. Philip: I have a petition signed by 17 residents of the riding of Etobicoke-Rexdale. I correct myself: Sixteen from the riding of Etobicoke-Rexdale, and one, I see by the address, from the riding of Parkdale. I will supply the member with the name and address so that he might present a plaque to that particular citizen in his riding.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'"—I was pleased to sign that select committee report, along with the Solicitor General—"and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holi-

days Act or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays should remain that of the provincial government”—that is the report the Premier said he was in favour of during the election—“and

“Whereas the report also said, ‘The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario;’ and

“Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

“Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government’s intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people;

“And whereas the government’s stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing the ability to spend time together;

“We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue, and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario.”

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Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have a petition.

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas the Liberal government of David Peterson does not support the principle of a common pause day in Ontario, we request that consideration be given to the views of 44 persons from across Ontario.” I might just mention that they are from Baden, Bayfield, Belle River, Bellwood, Blenheim. Those are only the Bs. I will get to the Cs later.

These people have signed a petition, which reads, in part, as follows:

“We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province’s retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families.”

This petition is signed by myself and I sent it to the table. I have another petition addressed:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas Premier David Peterson’s proposal for Sunday shopping does not mean more business, but rather the same business spread over seven instead of six days, thereby increasing costs for both retailers and consumers, we request that consideration be given to the views of 52 persons from St. Thomas who have signed a petition, which reads, in part, as follows:

“We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province’s retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families.”

That, too, is signed by myself. I have one more petition.

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas Premier David Peterson wants world-class Sunday shopping, but the people of Ontario do not, we request that consideration be given to the views of 47 persons from London”—I am not sure if that is London Centre, but I assume it is—“who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

“We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province’s retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families.”

That, too, I have signed.

Miss Martel: It is a pleasure for me to join in this democratic process. I must add that it is a pity that the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert) has such little regard for the process that he would attempt to bring in some form of closure, that he could have urged the chair to do that.

The Acting Speaker: And the petition is?

Miss Martel: I must say that I would expect the Liberals to be more than willing to hear the views of the people expressed here today through the petition process. Let me begin by saying:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

“Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the govern-

ment's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature"—and signed by the Solicitor General—"reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of 'wide-open' Sunday shopping for Ontario'"—and that was also signed by Joan Smith—"and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent"—as declared in this Legislature today—"but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Madam Speaker, I am proud to sign my name to this and I present it to you at this time. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Other petitions? The member for Markham.

Mr. Cousens: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to present—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Markham has the floor.

Mr. Cousens: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Liberal government of David Peterson does not support the principle of a common pause day in Ontario, we request that consideration be given to the views of persons"—from Abercorn Road, Lincoln Green Drive, Major Button's Drive, Fincham Avenue, Marion Crescent, Reginald Crescent, Wellington Street, Main Street, Senator Reesor's Drive, and Bramble Way, all of whom are residents of the great town of Markham—"who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We, the undersigned, are in favour of limiting Sunday shopping for the following reasons:

"1. As Christians in the reformed tradition, we value Sunday as a day for worship and rest.

"2. Regardless of religion, families need a regular, patterned opportunity for the whole family to share time.

"3. Regardless of religion, individuals need a regular, consistent opportunity for rest and recreation. An open Sunday will erode that opportunity greatly."

So presented and signed.

Mr. Hampton: I have here a petition from the town of Fort Frances and it is signed by four of the local councillors of that town. They say as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as

follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government,' and

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

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"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

That is signed by four members of the town council and by a number of other individuals as well.

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the majority of Ontarians want family-time together and not wide-open Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of persons who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"On Monday, March 21, I attended the meeting in the convention centre concerning the above topic and came away satisfied that:

"1. The opponents of open Sundays make sense.

"2. Municipalities do not want or need to have this problem delegated to them.

"3. Putting this in the municipalities' local option pot is sure to result in due course in open Sundays.

"4. There seemed to be a feeling in the audience that the representatives of the government did not understand the problem in dealing with lawyers drafting the legislation. My impression was that the Liberal government of Ontario will send hardy souls such as the Solicitor General out to hear public opinion but will persist in making the Premier's mistake of permitting open Sundays through delegation of the question to the municipalities.

"The response of the Minister of Labour made that quite clear. The point was made that the lawyers say it is difficult to define tourist areas where shops could be open on Sunday under the Retail Business Holidays Act, so difficult to do it on a province-wide basis that the Ontario government just cannot cope with it. Therefore this difficult defining is to be passed to a multiplicity of legislators in the municipal councils of Ontario. This is not a good answer to your difficulty with the lawyers. Enforcement of the present legislation is needed, rather than new legislation, especially when its effect will be to further open up Sundays.

"Please give the Premier my message to listen to these concerns."

For information, this petition is being copied to the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins), the opposition leaders and Gerrit de Boer of Idomo, who organized the meeting.

That letter is signed by Charles E. Clarke of 1400 Brackencrest Road.

I also have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly:"—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Dispense.

Mrs. Marland: It is too bad that the Minister of Labour is not willing to listen to the words of the people who live in this province.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the all-party committee of the Legislature on retail store hours unanimously recommended a common pause day so that families can get together, and whereas the Solicitor General, Joan Smith, signed that committee report but now has failed to live by its

recommendations, we request that consideration be given to our views, and we feel that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario appals us.

"You, in your busy political life, must realize the need for days of rest. The same applies to common people. We also need a day of rest, a day of pause to give us an opportunity for contact with family and friends. Sunday is that day.

"What is the motivation for Sunday shopping? We have convenience stores open seven days a week. We have all other stores open six days from about 9:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m., except on Saturday when they close at 5:30 or six. Surely the reason for wide-open Sunday shopping is not because the public needs longer store hours. With a little care and a little thought and a little planning, the present store hours are, in our opinion, adequate.

"Wide-open Sunday shopping would, in many instances, disrupt and perhaps even harm family life. Employment practices even now need upgrading. We wonder what those practices might be with Sunday shopping.

"My wife and I felt it necessary to let you know that we are opposed to wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario."

This petition is signed by B. C. Galli and J. N. Galli.

Mr. Wildman: I am happy to join in this tradition of parliamentary democracy, which goes back to the Magna Carta, where the people have the right to petition Her Majesty on whatever grievances.

I have a petition from Corpus Christi parish in Hamilton. It is signed by 83 parishioners. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and—

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: Do members want me to repeat that? All right.

1750

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Wildman: It says: "The regulation of Sunday shopping being given to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness to them, by reducing their ability to spend time together as opposed to spend money together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to"—

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, they are interrupting.

Mr. Speaker: Would the member continue?

Mr. Wildman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "And to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. Cureatz: I am very excited and pleased to have the opportunity of presenting a petition.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Petitions.

Mr. Cureatz: The petition is as follows, for the benefit of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), if he has not had the opportunity of hearing:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson" the House leader, the Treasurer and the Attorney General want "world-class Sunday shopping, but the people of Ontario do not, we request that consideration be given to the views of 47 persons from across the province who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping."

If the Treasurer went to Earl's Gulf, he would find that out.

"Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work"—I bet the people at Earl's Gulf do not want to work on Sunday.

Mr. Carrothers Earl's Shell.

Mr. Cureatz: Earl's Shell. It will probably be Earl's Petrocan by the time we finish—"at work instead of with their families.

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families.

"Mr. Premier, Mr. House leader, Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Treasurer, show us you care about your constituents. Stop Sunday shopping now."

Mr. Callahan: He is such an orator.

Mr. Cureatz: I have a little more influence than all those back-benchers. I do not see them coming forward with their petitions.

I have a petition with, it would appear, 47 names of people across Ontario who are exceedingly concerned about Sunday shopping. I myself have signed the said petition.

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the member for Middlesex (Mr. Reycraft), the member for Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong), the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams), the member for Cornwall (Mr. Cleary) and the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell), all Liberal members of this Legislature, have endorsed petitions opposing Sunday shopping,

and whereas the Premier has chosen to push on with legislation contrary to the personal wishes of his own caucus, we request that consideration be given to the views of 51 persons from across this province"—and I will name a few of the great towns they are from: Ingersoll, Malton, Nepean, Newmarket, Niagara Falls and Lucan. They have signed a petition that reads in part as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

Mr. Laughren: I have a petition from the Ridgemount Community Church:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows, 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows, 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely

to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

1800

Mr. Speaker: Does the government House leader have some information for the House?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: Pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, April 18 and on Tuesday, April 19, we will consider government notice of motion number 10, followed by the supply bill to be introduced by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), and if time permits, second reading of Bill 76 dealing with trustee representation.

On Wednesday, April 20 at 4 p.m., the 1988 Ontario budget will be presented to the House by the honourable the Treasurer. There is an agreement of the three parties that the House will adjourn following routine proceedings until 4 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon.

On Thursday, April 21, the House will consider private members' ballot items standing in the names of the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) and the member for Oakville South (Mr. Carrothers). In the afternoon, we will have the official opposition's response to the Ontario budget for 1988. Any changes or additions will be announced following discussions among House leaders.

TARIFFS ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 30(b), the question, "that this House do now adjourn" is deemed to have been made. The honourable member for Rainy River (Mr. Hampton), has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to a question given by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon). The member now has up to five minutes to debate the matter and the minister has up to five minutes to respond.

Mr. Hampton: When I asked the honourable Treasurer of Ontario on Tuesday, I asked him—and I quote from the draft copy of Hansard—he answered first of all that he thought that \$30 million had accrued to the province in revenue from the softwood lumber export tax. I then asked him how much of that money had gone to the communities of Kapuskasing, Thunder Bay, Longlac, Hudson and Keewatin—all communities that have suffered sawmill shutdowns within the past year—

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Stud-mill shutdowns, not sawmill. There is a hell of difference between a sawmill and a stud mill.

Mr. Hampton:—pursuant to the statements of the government that those kinds of communities would receive employment adjustment funds and other assistance from the softwood lumber tax revenues.

The minister replied that—first of all, he did not answer the question as to the priorities.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Is Chapleau closed?

Mr. Mackenzie: Who has the floor, the member or the stupid minister over there?

The Acting Speaker: Order. I assume that the member for Hamilton East would like to restate.

Mr. Mackenzie: I apologize for calling the member stupid, but he did not have the floor and he should button up a bit.

The Acting Speaker: I would ask all members to take into consideration that the member for Rainy River has the floor and allow him to continue his debate.

Mr. Hampton: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If I may say to the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine)—

The Acting Speaker: I would remind you that your remarks be directed to the Speaker, and I would hope that you would continue with your debate as quickly as you can.

Mr. Hampton: I would say through you, Madam Speaker, to the Minister of Northern Development that he and I can discuss this question too because I understand it pertains a little bit on his jurisdiction, as well. But we can save that for another date.

The Treasurer did not discuss the priorities at all. He did not answer the question at all. Instead he answered another question. He said that some money was being spent in northern Ontario in terms of special education assistance and some was being spent on the upgrading of highways. But he did not answer the question as to how the

\$30 million that has accrued to the government through the softwood lumber export tax has been spent.

What bothered me about that answer, first of all, was the fact that the question was not answered. I immediately conferred with my colleague the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) because he had previously written to the Treasurer and had asked him at an earlier date for "the total amount of revenue accruing to the provincial Treasurer resulting from the imposition of this tax on Ontario softwood lumber exports"; and then he had asked the second question, "the total amount spent on programs designed to assist Ontario lumber communities to adapt to the changes in the market related to the 15 per cent softwood lumber export tax."

He had been very specific in his question and I try to be in mine, because we want to keep on top of this issue. It is an important issue for those communities which are suffering from sawmill and stud-mill shutdowns.

At that time, back in March, the Treasurer wrote back to the member for Algoma saying:

"Dear Bud,

"Thank you for your letter. The federal government has transferred about \$27.5 million to the provincial Treasury."

To his second question, how much money had been spent on adjustment funds and how much money had been spent attempting to assist these communities in dealing with this market upset, the Treasurer said, "With respect to your second question concerning employment adjustment programs, there has been no expenditure specifically directed at employment losses resulting from the export tax."

I have the answer to the question of the member for Algoma, which was much like my own, and I have the nonanswer to my question. My reason for being here tonight is to find out how much of that money, which now sits in the Ontario Treasury—which has essentially come out of the pockets of those communities—how much of that money has gone back into those communities which need it so desperately, where there has been a loss of between 500 and 700 jobs. That is my question.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The actual amount, as of March 31, I am informed, from the federal tax that was transferred to us was close to \$34 million.

I should say, just so the honourable member would not get some wrong idea about what we do with the dollars that come in, we do not put a little mark on them and say, "These are softwood

dollars," or "These are gas tax dollars," or "These are income tax from MPPs dollars." They go into the consolidated revenue fund and we respond to our commitments to see that the communities affected are assisted in the best possible way.

I have two or three specific cases: Kimberly-Clark at Terrace Bay, closed November 24, 1986, laying off 70 employees. A manpower adjustment committee was set up, and except for a few workers who left or returned to school, all are now working in K-C's pulpmill operation.

I think the honourable member would know better than I that, while the softwood situation is not as good as we would have expected, although the levels of exports remained high, and there have been huge sales to support the building boom in all parts of Canada, particularly in Ontario, still the pulp and paper industry is going at a rate that is almost unparalleled. Their sales all over the world are high, their prices are high and there have been some transferences, as occurred at Terrace Bay. The honourable member, coming from a paper town himself, with all of the advantages that entails, would know the details of those matters.

All of the reports are not that good. Waferboard Corp. at Smooth Rock Falls, closed December 1, 1986, laying off 95 employees. A manpower adjustment committee was set up and, as of November, 1987, 20 workers still remain unemployed. That is very serious, and I know it would be particularly serious for the 20 people concerned, but there have been programs assisting and retraining, moving toward alternative employment.

As a matter of fact, my staff has provided me with more information than I can use, but I should point out to the member that the Ontario forest industry employment totalled 82,000 in 1987, an increase of 5,000 or 6.5 per cent over the previous year.

The member wants a specific answer to his question. The amount that had come in at the end of the fiscal year, I have already referred to. The fact that those dollars are spent for the good of specific communities is evident, and the honourable member need only go into those communities to see the high level of education, the good level of transportation that is available through a wide variety of provincial programs.

The Premier (Mr. Peterson), in referring to the softwood lumber special taxation that was a part of the initiative taken by the government of Canada, clearly indicated that we wanted to use it to improve educational opportunities. I can

assure the member that at least that much and more was applied, if not at Ear Falls, in a general way across northern Ontario to provide alternative educational opportunities, which we believe have been productive and have given a very large number of northerners the kind of background which has improved their job opportunities and job prospects.

The honourable member would know that the unemployment levels in the north have been higher than in the south. I think they have always been that way, and that is unfortunate. That does not mean we accept it or that we say it is a good thing. But in northwestern Ontario and the central part of the north, the job increases have been very high indeed, and we have been concentrating on providing job opportunities in northeastern Ontario, particularly in the areas where the utilization of our forest resources had been lagging. The honourable member will know

that there have been a number of specific grants approved for that purpose.

The situation in the north is, in fact, expanding and improving at a rate that must even impress the honourable member and his northern colleagues. With the price of nickel higher than it has been in recent history, our pulp and paper mills operating at capacity, the gold production at Hemlo and elsewhere booming as it really never has before, with a shortage of hardrock miners and even the nickel mines in Sudbury looking for new employees, it certainly could be better, but it is very good and improving.

The idea of selling some disaster of the north, either here or in the north, simply is not realistic. I would think the honourable member would begin to change his tune and talk about how good things are in northern Ontario under this Liberal government.

The House adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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|---|--|
| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breough, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orisle L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p>Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
 Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
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 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)</p> |
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- Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
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 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
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 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
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*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Monday, April 18, 1988



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, April 18, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: I would like to draw to the attention of the members that on Thursday last the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) rose on a point of privilege concerning the announcement made by the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert) to his constituents of a proposed site having the potential to be developed for office, commercial, limited ancillary retail or government use.

The member for Oshawa then stated that the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) announced two days later that the site in question was now being made available for housing proposals and that announcements of this kind by the minister should be made in this chamber.

I must remind all honourable members, as my predecessors and I have stated on numerous occasions, such statements made outside the House may constitute a legitimate grievance and question of courtesy or respect for the House, and in my view they cannot form a question of privilege.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

POVERTY GAME

Mr. Allen: "My name is Barbara. I'm 31 years old. I've got four kids and I live in Toronto. I was 17 when my 14-year-old twins were born. By the time my fourth child was born, my husband up and left. I've never seen him since. He obviously couldn't hack it. We couldn't afford day care. I couldn't go out to work. Life was a constant round of unpaid bills. Looking back, I guess I really don't blame him."

I am really Richard, of course, and I am playing the MPPs' Poverty Game, which took place last Friday, a game developed by women who lived on welfare and who tried to turn it into a game. It is set up like Monopoly, the only difference being that you never get ahead and you always lose more than you gain.

I could not believe the emotion that built up in me as I played the game, trying to meet the demands day in and day out, the requirements of

my children for food and clothes. I never got past the third week, it seemed, without running out of money and having to resort to the food bank. The dilemmas and the tradeoffs were almost impossible. My worker seemed more like a policeman than a helper. As the four and a half hours wore on, I began more and more to identify with the person I was supposed to be playing.

At the end of the game, the organizers played a tape from the real Barbara telling what she went through and how it worked out in the end. I could not believe how much I had bonded with this person whom I did not know at all. I almost cried.

Everyone ought to play this game. The tragedy is that anyone should ever have to.

HURONIA REGIONAL CENTRE

Mr. McLean: My statement is directed to the Ministry of Labour. It is my understanding that the Workers' Compensation Board plans to establish a modern, comprehensive rehabilitation centre, and a network of 50 to 100 community clinics and a number of regional medical centres within five years to help Ontario injured workers. On a number of occasions, I have pointed out to my colleagues here in this Legislature that the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia would be an ideal existing facility that could be used for the care and treatment of Alzheimer's patients.

I would now like to point out that this same facility would be an ideal location for the WCB rehabilitation centre or a regional medical centre. The facility already exists, so an expensive new building does not need to be constructed.

The Huronia Regional Centre could be used to research work-related injuries and rehabilitation problems and for therapy designed to reintroduce injured workers to the workforce gradually.

I would urge the minister to give serious consideration to using the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia as a rehabilitation centre or regional centre to serve injured workers in Simcoe county and that part of Ontario.

CONSERVATION

Mr. Owen: There has been considerable animosity generated lately concerning access to hunting and fishing on crown lands, particularly

in northern Ontario. Much of the hostility has been motivated by financial considerations and suspicion of one group's having more influence than another.

I believe conservation and fair access for all Ontario citizens must be upheld. Ontario's parks and other public lands should be a source of recreation and enjoyment for all with restrictions when dictated by concern for conservation. I am assured the Ministry of Natural Resources will take all opinions into consideration when formulating its policy on this issue. I am confident the matter will be resolved in the interest of our best possible future.

Finally, I would like to extend my congratulations to all those conservationists in my riding of Simcoe Centre who expressed their concern for vacancies that had occurred among the ranks of conservation officers in Simcoe county. I am pleased the Ministry of Natural Resources is now filling those positions. We all benefit from the protection of our natural heritage and it is a reassurance that this government is guaranteeing the protection of natural heritage for all people in Ontario.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is Education Week in Ontario and a day on which we might expect the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) to be here making some major announcements—announcing perhaps that he was going to meet the Liberal promise of moving the government towards 60 per cent of the funding of education instead of reducing that percentage as it has been doing.

Perhaps he would have been here to tell us there will be fewer kids next year in portables, instead of more and more as thousands of kids in this province are now being taught in portables around the province. Perhaps he would have been here to tell us that the special-education legislation, Bill 82, was going to be revamped, that he was announcing that today, and that we could all get to work on finally making sure that piece of legislation did what we wanted it to do when we brought it in five years ago.

Perhaps he would be telling us that the terrible deterioration in English-as-a-second-language teaching that has been taking place in this province is going to be reversed, or he would be announcing the results of the government's heritage-language survey, which the government has had the results of now for over three months and is somehow not divulging to this House or to the province.

Perhaps the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod), who is here, will tell us why she is now tempering the government's message about accessibility to universities, where now we are not guaranteeing as a province that any child who wants to go to university will be able to get there. Instead, we are allowing the possibility where, to get into certain first-year programs in Ontario, students will need over 80 per cent to qualify. In fact, they will not be eligible for university, as I was able to go in the 1960s.

Perhaps we will be hearing from the government some major statements on these matters today.

UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Mr. Jackson: At this moment, grade 13 students across Ontario are preparing to write their final exams for May and June, and many of them are eagerly awaiting word from the universities to which they have applied in this province. One can only guess at their frustration and disappointment—shared, I might add, by members of this party—when they read in the *Sunday Star* that this Liberal government is breaking a commitment made two decades ago by the former Conservative government to ensure that every qualified student will find a place in our university system.

The article is headed "University No Longer Promised for All." It reads: "For 25 years Ontario high school students have lived with the promise that all qualified students would find a place in an Ontario university."

"Colleges and Universities minister Lyn McLeod says the promise has changed." The article goes on to say, "Students who can't get into jam-packed universities should go to a community college instead."

On June 15, 1987, the Liberal Premier (Mr. Peterson) promised, "There has been a substantial guarantee by this government that every qualified student will have a place in a university this fall."

Where is that commitment? How is this Liberal government going to respond to the thousands of students in grades 12 and 13 who have been betrayed by the Premier and the minister? We have always believed that there should be a place in university for every qualified student. So did the Liberals, it seems, until after the last provincial election.

1340

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Tatham: Who Killed Cock Robin?

Remember—all the birds of the air
 Start a-sighin' and a-sobbin'
 When they heard of the death
 Of poor Cock Robin.
 Where should we bury the garbage?
 Oh, put it in the gravel pit,
 That is it
 Good fit\$
 And then 20 years later
 Or maybe 10,
 Leachate bloom meets aquifer
 And turns drinking water tan.
 Oh, I think I'll build my house right here
 Whoops—I can't—methane gas, my dear,
 So have we got an answer
 To those questions every day?
 Who will take our garbage?
 Who is going to pay?
 Well, Oxford campus, Fanshawe,
 In Woodstock town it seems
 Has started protective workshops
 To stanch the garbage screams.
 Brighton, Norwich, Brantford,
 Kincardine, Paris, Kent
 Are some who've sent their people
 To these discussions, friend.
 How much, you ask, does this help cost?
 \$100 and that's no loss
 Because you'll get your fill of words
 Of talk and food and paper.
 I know you'll send your friends along
 For a session coming later.
 Who killed Cock Robin?
 Was it him? Was it her?
 Who killed Cock Robin?
 Perhaps we should look into the mirror.

LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) is in the House today, I would like to implore him to involve himself in the labour dispute around Lily Cups in Scarborough—a company, Fort Howard, which has brought Georgia-style labour relations negotiations to this province, a harbinger of things to come if free trade goes through, and which has come to an awful condition this weekend.

They are now saying that they are going to systematically withdraw even more things from the bargaining table than were on it before. This company has asked some of the workers to give up six weeks of vacation after 30-some years of service and go back to two weeks of vacation. They unilaterally shortened the work week, they unilaterally took away floating holidays and they

are determined to break this union and to set a standard for labour relations in this province that could only be seen to be a disaster.

I would ask the minister to call them into his office—both sides if he chooses to—to discuss this with them in the most serious of fashions, because otherwise this is going to be setting an example for industries in this province which I suggest will be very detrimental to workers in this province.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPENSATION FOR PERSONAL INJURIES AND DEATH

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am very pleased to table two reports that will be of great interest to the members of the House. The reports are the Ontario Law Reform Commission Report on Compensation for Personal Injuries and Death and the report of Mr. Justice Osborne's Inquiry into Motor Vehicle Accident Compensation in Ontario.

As members of this House know, Ontario has undergone a difficult time with respect to the availability and affordability of insurance, as have most other jurisdictions in the world. Responding to those problems, in May 1986, the report of the Ontario Task Force on Insurance was tabled. In it, Dr. Slater urged, among other things, that the government give further consideration to some measure of tort reform and study the possibility of implementing a no-fault automobile accident compensation scheme.

As a result, on November 6, 1986, Mr. Justice Osborne of the Supreme Court of Ontario was authorized to inquire into and report on the tort system of compensation for injury by automobile accident and the consequences of the implementation of a no-fault automobile accident compensation scheme. In addition, he was asked to consider and report on a number of specific concerns with respect to motor vehicle accident compensation in the province.

Within the same time frame, the law reform commission had already commenced its examination of the fairness and consistency of the principles governing the assessment of compensation for personal injuries and death, which, of course, extends beyond automobile accidents.

I would like to take a moment to tell the members briefly about the final recommendations of both reports.

First, with respect to Mr. Justice Osborne's report on motor vehicle accident compensation, he makes 147 recommendations for changes and

improvements to the system by which we compensate the victims of motor vehicle accidents. He makes numerous recommendations with respect to the automobile insurance industry in Ontario, the coverage and delivery of compensation to victims, the standard automobile insurance policy itself, insurance principles, including the classification system and methods of underwriting, loss costs and premiums and, of course, the improvement of court proceedings themselves.

Members will be interested to know that Mr. Justice Osborne recommends that the government of Ontario not introduce public automobile insurance. Similarly, he does not recommend a pure no-fault automobile insurance scheme for Ontario. He does, however, recommend the retention and improvement of the tort system as it relates to motor vehicle accident claims.

Mr. Justice Osborne's proposals obviously require careful consideration. However, I am favourably disposed to some of his recommendations. By way of example, Mr. Justice Osborne has made a variety of thoughtful suggestions for improving and streamlining the judicial process at and prior to the trial of motor vehicle accident cases.

In addition, one possible change on which there now seems to be some consensus is the abolition of the collateral source rule whereby some plaintiffs received double recovery for their losses.

I know that my colleague the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has identified some recommendations to which he too is prepared to give early favourable consideration. These changes will be reflected in amendments to the Insurance Act, which he plans to introduce, I am advised, in the near future.

At this point, on behalf of the government and the people of Ontario, I would like to extend my thanks to Mr. Justice Osborne, who undertook a formidable task in November 1986 when he agreed to examine this most complex problem. He conducted his inquiry with great skill in an atmosphere charged with anxiety for consumers and the industry alike. He is to be commended on the detail and depth of his inquiry and the breadth of the recommendations he has made.

Let me now turn to the second document, the Ontario Law Reform Commission Report on Compensation for Personal Injuries and Death. The commission, which of course extends beyond automobile accidents, makes several recommendations, including ones concerning

loss of working capacity, damages for nonpecuniary loss, calculations with respect to the cost of future care and prejudgement interest.

The report of the Ontario Law Reform Commission provides a valuable analysis of many of the issues recommended for further study by Dr. Slater in his report in May 1986. The research of the commission and its recommendations provide a useful contribution to our understanding of compensation issues.

Again, I am favourably disposed to recommend to my colleagues a number of the recommendations. For example, the commission recommends a means that will require the co-operation of the federal government for elimination of the gross-up rule, a rule whereby awards are increased to take account of future taxes payable on interest income.

The commission, its chairman and staff are to be commended for a job well done. Now we begin the difficult task of digesting the contents of these two most detailed reports.

I know that members of this House, the public and various groups with a direct interest in reform will be anxious to see the recommendations of both reports and to provide the government with comments. Matters which we will be anxious to discuss include Mr. Justice Osborne's recommendations with respect to no-fault auto insurance, threshold tort schemes and other compensation models discussed in his report. Both I and my colleague the Minister of Financial Institutions look forward to comment on these reports.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Wong: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table today the final report on the safety of Ontario Hydro's nuclear power reactors. The report was submitted to me by the commissioner of the Ontario nuclear safety review, Professor Kenneth Hare.

The review was set up in response to a recommendation by the select committee on energy in July 1986.

The full report, as tabled, consists of five volumes and is a substantial document. What I have distributed to members today is the commissioner's report to the minister, which consists of conclusions, recommendations and a summary of the full technical report. I have made arrangements for the full report to be sent to the Energy critics and the chairman of the select committee on energy. I would be pleased to meet members' requests for the other documents.

I can also announce that Professor Hare will be present at a news conference in the Amethyst Room this afternoon at 3:30.

The report was reviewed by a panel appointed by the Royal Society of Canada. In the panel's opinion, high scholarly standards have been achieved and all the relevant information has been assembled and reviewed with critical disinterest. I believe this report warrants careful study and action by all those who have responsibilities for the safety of nuclear power in this province.

1350

While it would be premature for me to make any comment on the report at this time, members should know that I have sent the report to the chairman of Ontario Hydro and have asked him to inform me of the actions Ontario Hydro will take.

I have also sent the report to the appropriate Ontario government ministries, and the Minister of Energy will co-ordinate a response to the report. I have requested that initial responses be available in four months.

Aspects of the work of the safety review relate to federal responsibilities. Accordingly, I have referred the report to the federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources for consideration and comment by the government of Canada.

This report represents a great deal of work, involving many people. I believe members would wish to join me in thanking all of those who contributed to the work of the Ontario Nuclear Safety Review. The Royal Society of Canada played an invaluable role in providing guidance and peer review, and I would specifically like to acknowledge their contribution. In particular, I would like to extend my personal thanks to Professor Hare and his staff for their hard work and dedication to the task they undertook.

EARL FENTON

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I am pleased to be able to introduce today, in the Speaker's gallery, Earl Fenton of Oakville, who has been chosen the minister's 1987 Volunteer of the Year for community and social services.

Mr. Fenton was nominated from the Ontario Association of Volunteer Bureaux and Centres and by my ministry, which chose 43 individuals to receive our community service awards.

Fifteen years ago, Mr. Fenton helped establish Halton Helping Hands, an organization that provides home support services to frail elderly persons and people who are physically disabled.

He was also instrumental in the formation of the community Wheel-Trans service called Care-A-Van.

Three times a week, Mr. Fenton uses Care-A-Van to take him to Halton Helping Hands where he spends his afternoons on the telephone, talking to clients, ensuring that they are well and arranging appointments. When he is not on the telephone, Mr. Fenton is supervising the assignments of other volunteers and helping with administrative details in the office.

Because of his own physical disability, Mr. Fenton took early retirement from the Oakville post office and then immersed himself in a heavy schedule of volunteer activities. He sits on the Oakville handicapped advisory committee, the advisory committee for Care-A-Van, and he has been invited to be part of a group called Pegasus, which is Halton Region's handicapped transit implementation committee.

Mr. Fenton and the recipients of the community service awards were nominated by their own peers. They see themselves not as winners, but rather representatives of thousands of volunteers who are directly or indirectly involved with programs supported by this ministry.

We could not provide the selection, nor would we have the quality of our community human services, without the superb contribution of all our volunteers.

To demonstrate our deep appreciation, we are again holding regional assemblies to recognize the contribution of these citizens. This evening in Sault Ste. Marie, my parliamentary assistant, the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin), will be honouring northern recipients. I will be convening awards banquets in Toronto, Kingston and London between now and May 11.

I am sure all members will join me in saying thank you to Mr. Fenton and the thousands of individuals who modestly and without fanfare have committed themselves to improving the quality of life in our province. Thank you, Earl, on behalf of the citizens of Ontario.

RESPONSES

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: I, of course, have to respond to the report given by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), and first complain about the paucity of information. We learned more from the press over the weekend than we did from the minister about what was in the report. The Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. R. F. Nixon) is not even in the House at this time. After the great fanfare when they announced this a year ago last

fall, he is not even in the House, he is not reporting himself on this report.

Well, I want to say that with the little knowledge that we have, we are witnessing the ultimate in Liberal progressivity and their defence of the public against the corporations and corporate exploitation in this province.

We have had this exploitation for three years now on the insurance rates and the injustices that have gone with it. There was the Slater report. It was put on the shelf. A few months before the election they promised to do certain things which have amounted to nothing in the end. Now we have a report from Mr. Osborne which, in fact, recommends the status quo of three years ago. Some progress for the Liberals.

But this report also reveals something even worse about the way that the Liberals function. That report was to be released in November, in December and January and February and March. Today, I accuse the minister of deliberately stalling the release of this report which condemns his rate review board until he had that rate review bill passed in February. That is why we did not get this until now. He could not take two reports that, along with the Slater report, said that he had bombed in putting in the rate review board. I tell him, that bomb is going to blow up in his face.

Apart from that, the minister got what he wanted: a self-serving document that maintains the status quo. The insurance companies got what they want, and particularly the lawyers got what they want. The only ones getting shafted now are the motorists of this province, as has always been the case. Nobody in this party expected this report to recommend driver-owned insurance. He would not appoint someone who would cross him up like that. Otherwise he would have appointed somebody like the firm of Woods Gordon who did it before. And even if he did happen to, they would know the limits on what they could bring in to his people.

If the report does not recommend a driver-owned public system, it does not matter an awful lot what else is in the report because they will be tiny Band-Aids on the gaping wounds of a system that is bleeding the public to death. We did not need this report, and I want to say finally that this report deserves to go where most of the other government reports have gone, on the shelf. The ultimate test on what is good in auto insurance is where the public finds satisfaction and endorsement, and that is in the public plans in the west, and the Liberals, the Conservative and the Social Credit members have served the public out there by continuing those plans and saying they are

good, but the Liberal government in this province goes on serving the corporate interest, the insurance companies of this province, and to hell with the motorists.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mrs. Grier: This seems to be the day for the release of weighty reports. I await with interest the five volumes of the Professor Hare report and can assure the minister that we will study them with interest and have a lot more to say about them than we can say in the time available today.

I would like to point out to the government that the appointment of the Hare commission was one of the recommendations of the select committee on energy. Many of the other recommendations of that committee remain ignored by this government and deal with the accountability of Ontario Hydro. If those recommendations to make Ontario Hydro more accountable had been put in place then we would have been much more reassured about the kind of review this report is going to undertake.

It is shocking that in looking at emergency plans, which was one of the things that Professor Hare was asked to look at, he has to point out that despite a discussion paper being released in 1986, little has been done to give effect to this plan for emergency planning for Ontario Hydro. The professional staff involved still numbers only two. A sense of urgency is lacking. If a severe accident occurs, the province is unready.

That is what this report is all about. It points out shocking dereliction by Ontario Hydro, and we intend to address that.

1400

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Runciman: At the outset, we want to extend our compliments to Mr. Justice Osborne for what appears to be a thoughtful and well-reasoned report, a report that, somewhat surprisingly, echos virtually everything this party has been saying for many months. Common sense seems to be the main ingredient of the report, and common sense is not something that has been featured in this government's words and actions in respect to auto insurance.

Justice Osborne is not supportive of comprehensive no-fault, and with that we heartily concur. Our party does not accept the concept that no individual should have to be liable for his own actions and that the cost of any risk should be distributed among all members of society. We in the Progressive Conservative Party believe in

the ethic of responsibility, that individuals must face the consequences of their own actions.

Justice Osborne also finds the new rate-setting board inappropriate, and to this we say, amen. The board is an extremely cumbersome, costly and unnecessary intervention into the private sector, which can only result in the slow but sure reduction of competitive choice for consumers in the auto insurance field. No doubt that result will fit in nicely with the long-term planning of social engineers like the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), a former NDP fund-raiser, but for the majority—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Runciman: I know; the truth hurts.

For the majority of Ontarians, who we believe do not share those interventionist, government-knows-best aspirations, the establishment of this board bodes ill indeed.

We hold out little hope that the government will heed the wisdom of Justice Osborne's report, but we feel obligated to urge it to step back and reconsider the path upon which it has embarked. It is not too late to reconsider. It is not too late to inject common sense and fairness into its approach. It is not too late to do what is right for the private sector and for the consumers of this province.

Again, we applaud Justice Osborne for telling it like it is.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. Runciman: I will make a brief comment in respect to the tabling of the report by the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong). We welcome this report. We agree with the minister that it warrants careful study. We are somewhat relieved to see some of the major conclusions, obviously, especially the major conclusion regarding overall safety. I also concur with the recommendation regarding the human element being the major concern.

I would urge the minister and the various bodies that will be considering this report also to take into consideration a concern that has been raised in the United States recently and which was detected in a number of tests, and that is the alarmingly high usage of drugs by employees of nuclear generating facilities in the United States. I know this raises some questions in regard to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, but I urge the minister to take a careful look at this. This is something that we must indeed monitor in the Ontario situation.

Again, we look forward to working with the minister on this report.

EARL FENTON

Mrs. Marland: It is indeed a very real privilege and a pleasure to rise, on behalf of our caucus, to share in the recognition of Mr. Fenton. He certainly is an example to all of us. I think those of us who are able-bodied have to be very inspired and motivated by the example of Earl Fenton. When someone like Mr. Fenton becomes a force with so much success and so much good on behalf of other people, I think we are all indeed humbled by his example.

It is certainly a great week in Ontario as we recognize volunteerism. It has often been said that governments could never replace or pay for in any way the work of volunteers in Ontario. As we recognize their work and the rewards of their work without monetary compensation, we are again expressing our gratitude and our indebtedness to the people who volunteer their services for the betterment of their fellow persons in Ontario today.

ORAL QUESTIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. B. Rae: Naturally, I had hoped to be able to ask some questions of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) today, but in his absence, turning again to the question of the government's proposals with respect to Sunday working and Sunday opening, I have some questions for the Minister of Municipal Affairs, whose job will no doubt be made much more complicated by virtue of the impositions placed on him by his colleagues.

In the briefing which the press received on Thursday, the government states, "A bylaw may apply to any part or parts of the region; limit openings to specific times or certain number of hours; open or close on certain holidays; restrict opening or require closing to specific periods of the year; classify stores by size, number of people employed, character of business, geographic location, or any other criteria. "The law also gives the municipality the ability to substitute its own fine for the \$50,000 fine which is provided for in the legislation.

I wonder if the minister can explain to the other simple souls in the Legislature, such as myself, who listened to the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) on Thursday with some amazement as he said this would make the law more enforceable, why having 800 municipalities and regions passing laws with respect to a total patchwork quilt will somehow make the law more enforceable in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I want to emphasize again that municipalities already have the option whether to be open or closed. We have met from time to time with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. I met last Thursday, and we will be meeting again to discuss this subject further.

I want to say to the member that under the municipal option some five million people already live in communities that have opted for some form of Sunday shopping. Let me tell the member this: the municipalities are asking for the opportunity to run their communities, to run them in the way the people wish.

Mr. Brandt: They didn't ask for this, and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: No, what we are saying here is that the municipalities should have that option to tell us the type of community in which they would like to live, and that is what we are doing.

Mr. B. Rae: I am sure the minister would not want to imply for a moment that this legislation is something which the municipalities or the regions in this province have ever asked the government for; in fact, quite the contrary.

Again, the minister is saying something which is quite contradictory to what his colleagues were saying last week. What they were saying was that the current situation, and this has been the view the Attorney General himself expressed so many times, is such a mess, particularly in our large urban centres that, in the phrase being used by the Attorney General and by the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), the law cannot be enforced.

You have people challenging the law. You have stores opening when they should not be opening. The law cannot be enforced. Those are the words used by the Attorney General and the Premier.

My question, again to the minister, is a very simple one. Can the minister explain to us how giving to the municipalities the power to pass a law which will classify stores by size, number of people employed, character of business, geographic location or any other criteria could conceivably make the law more enforceable? Would he not admit that common sense would tell him that if he thinks the law is a mess now, he ain't seen nothing yet in Ontario?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: The present law was passed in 1977 by the previous government and was reaffirmed in 1981 by that government. In fact, there are three members sitting across from

me who were a part of that government. I say to them that the people have lived under this since 1977. Why did they not raise objections previously in the Legislature? Where were they when that was passed? Why did they not speak up on behalf of that legislation?

Mr. B. Rae: I must say that, having been all my life in opposition, I really do marvel when government blames us for the legislation it has passed over the past 20, 30, 40 or 50 years. It is the government's baby and it is the government's problem, and the one it has produced is going to be even worse than anything that was produced by previous governments. That is perfectly obvious.

1410

Mr. Speaker: Your supplementary?

Mr. B. Rae: The minister will no doubt be aware of the Nova Scotia experience, and if he is not I will remind him of it. In 1985, the Nova Scotia government did precisely what is being engineered by the genius of the Attorney General. A short year and a half later, the Attorney General of Nova Scotia had to change the law entirely and take it back into provincial jurisdiction precisely because it was such a mess, because there were so many challenges and because there was so much unfairness.

What he said was, "We believe that" by passing the change, bringing it back into the province, "we will have effectively cut off the possibility of developing a patchwork quilt of activity, municipal unit by municipal unit, and we will have a much more readable and understandable, and with respect I would suggest defensible, piece of legislation than perhaps was the case before."

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if the minister would not agree that perhaps it might be wise to look to the experience elsewhere where this has been tried and recognize that what he is doing is simply bound to fail.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: It has been the experience in this province that municipalities speak on behalf of the people they represent, and I feel that the municipalities should speak from time to time on behalf of the people they represent. They are asking for the right to maintain this local option, this autonomy.

Mr. Harris: No, they are not.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Yes, they have.
Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: We are saying to them that since 1977 they have lived with this option. I am simply saying that in my experience the municipalities have never come to me and said that this is wrong. They are asking for that option. We are maintaining and carrying on with the option they now have. The honourable member knows that under this option the community of Point Edward, for instance, is open on Sundays, I understand. Where was his voice then and what did he say in 1981? That is it.

Mr. B. Rae: In view of the absence of the Premier, I would like to ask some questions to the Minister of Labour. I wonder if the minister has seen the factum, the legal document presented by his colleague the Attorney General to the court on behalf of the government of Ontario, indeed on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, the Provincial Offences Act appeal which is the most recent case on which the government of Ontario has expressed a view with respect to the current situation?

I wonder if he is aware of the fact that the government's brief, submitted by the Attorney General or by the Ministry of the Attorney General on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, stated, under the heading "Vulnerability of the Retail Employee:"

"Employees in the retail sector were viewed as being in need of a statutorily mandated day of rest. Without such a regulation prohibiting Sunday openings, the vigorous competition for market share would force many retailers to open. Retail employees are generally nonunionized, have low job mobility and few if any mechanisms for the redress of grievances. As a group, retail workers are 'not in an economic position to negotiate a satisfactory financial arrangement for Sunday work' and are 'subject to subtle economic pressure to work.'"

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if the minister is aware of the fact that his own government, in the presentation of a document to the courts of this province, has stated categorically that the best protection that retail workers can get is to make sure that stores are closed so they are not subject to the kind of intimidation that goes on.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: In answer to the first part of the question of the Leader of the Opposition: no, I have not read the factum. I think he has read some of it to me. I think the end of his question incorporated a great deal of paraphrasing, but if I recall the part that he did read—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think the Leader of the Opposition obviously does not want to hear the answer.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: If he wants to hear the answer he just has to listen for a moment. I think what he read at one point was a phrase which said, "In the absence of statutory protection." The bill that I hope we can get to introducing later on this afternoon provides the very kind of statutory protection that the factum the Leader of the Opposition was referring to said the workers of the province needed. That is what we are doing.

Mr. B. Rae: Again, the government really has been speaking out of both sides of its mouth on this question. The Attorney General has presented a case to the courts of this province in which he has stated categorically everything which we on this side have been saying in this House, and the government is now changing the law, which completely undermines every case it has taken with respect to the current situation.

Is the minister aware of the fact, for example, that the arguments presented by the Attorney General's department stated: "The evidence 'overwhelmingly' indicated that there was a need for a legislated pause day due to a reluctance on the part of many industries to regulate themselves in accordance with this objective. There is an ever-increasing trend in retail business and its ancillary services to open on...Sundays. There is an accompanying erosion of the opportunity for retail workers to participate in leisure activities with family, friends and others. A uniform pause day was needed"?

That is what it stated. That is what was stated in this factum. This government's own legal arguments have been based on that—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: With all due respect to the Leader of the Opposition, there are some 160,000 retail workers who, under the current law, are subject to working on Sundays. The fact is that for the first time this parliament has the opportunity to consider a piece of legislation which will make Sunday work in the retail sector voluntary rather than compulsory. There is a protection that retail workers have not had. Under this bill, even the 160,000 who are currently subject to Sunday work have the opportunity to do that. So I invite the Leader of the Opposition and his party and the Progressive Conservative Party to consider this legislation.

Let us move it forward, because I think he will admit it is a protection—

Mr. Harris: None.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: —the workers of this province simply have never had before, I tell my friend the member for Nipissing.

Mr. B. Rae: The entire premise of this government's and this province's case in the Supreme Court of Canada and in every other argument about the Retail Business Holidays Act, has been that it is labour legislation, that it is legislation intended to protect employees, that is why it is constitutional and that is why it falls within provincial jurisdiction. That has been the entire premise of every government case.

If the minister thinks that handing over the rights of retail workers to municipalities is fair game, why would he stop at that? Why would he not have a regional minimum wage? Why would he not have different labour laws for the protection of women? Why would he not have different hours of work in different parts of Ontario? Why would he not say that is next? Why would he, as Minister of Labour, abandon retail workers—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That seems to be quite a number of questions.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The suggestion has been made that the current Retail Business Holidays Act is, in the view of the Leader of the Opposition, justifiable on the basis that it is labour legislation. Be that as it may, the fact is that for the first time in this province this parliament is going to be able to consider a bill which is direct labour protection.

He may want it to go further. I invite him to make those submissions during committee. He may say that it does not do everything, that we should be addressing the minimum wage as well and that there are other problems with retail workers; but for goodness sake, here we have an opportunity not only to address issues of the working world through amendments to the Retail Business Holidays Act, but also to create a provincial framework and one provincial law for all the retail workers of this province, and it provides opportunity, fairly and reasonably, to deal with the issue of Sunday work.

1420

Now, the Leader of the Opposition does not want to pay attention but he quotes a Massachusetts law that he said is far more favourable than the one that we are proposing here in Ontario. I tell my friend the Leader of the Opposition that the Massachusetts bill deals with a tiny segment

of retail workers; indeed, those who were working on the day that bill was passed.

He shakes his head. If he looks at the legislation, he will find out that is the way the courts have interpreted it.

What we are proposing—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. New question.

Mr. Brandt: In view of the absence of the Premier, I would like to direct my question to the Deputy Premier—that is the Honourable Mr. Nixon, just in case he was wondering—and the question relates to the issue of Sunday shopping.

As the Deputy Premier will know, a very substantial and large percentage of his colleagues, particularly those on the back benches, did not campaign in favour of Sunday shopping in the last election. In fact, many of them indicated that they were unalterably opposed to the issue of opening up Sundays in this province as a seventh day of commercial activity.

The Deputy Premier may also be aware that our party has indicated that we will proceed in the normal way with the legislation that he intends to bring forth in connection with this issue if, in fact, the Deputy Premier will use his considerable influence to discuss with the Premier the whole question of having a free vote in this House to allow all of these members to vote according to their conscience with respect to what we feel is a very important and fundamental issue to the people of Ontario. My question to the Deputy Premier is, will he use his influence to allow a free vote in this House?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to report to you, sir, that my colleagues are very much and strongly in support of the legislation that is proposed to be put forward and we are looking forward to the leader of the third party making good on his commitment that the legislation will be properly before the House and available for the kind of debate that is going to be useful and, of course, democratically based.

But for my part, like for the honourable member himself, at least one community in my area has already taken advantage of its individual municipal right to declare itself a tourist area and the stores in that community—it happens to be the township in which I live—have been open now for a number of years. This has been a substantial convenience to the community and no one's rights have been infringed in any way that is discernible and, as a matter of fact, I think the people in the community would be very upset indeed if the honourable member and his colleagues had their way and their right to self-determination was removed.

Mr. Brandt: What is interesting with respect to what the Deputy Premier has just indicated is that the Liberal back-benchers in his government are saying one thing here at Queen's Park and still another to both the media and their constituents back in their own ridings. The government cannot have this issue both ways.

Let me quote, if I might, from a newsletter of one of the government members in which the member says, "Let me stress to you, I will continue to pressure my government in caucus meetings to pass legislation ensuring that stores remain closed on Sundays." That is what that member says, but the Deputy Premier indicates they are free to do whatever they want. I am quoting from the newsletter of the member for Guelph (Mr. Ferraro)—

An hon. member: Not him again.

Mr. Brandt: The member for Guelph again. I quoted him last week. I quote him again.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Brandt: My question to the Deputy Premier is, in light of the fact that there are a number of back-benchers who wish to express some dissatisfaction with the legislation the minister is attempting to browbeat them into supporting, will he use his influence to allow a free, democratic, parliamentary vote in this House?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I know that the honourable member has returned to this issue on more than one occasion. He has singled out my colleague the member for Guelph, who is one of the finest and most capable members in the whole House.

Interjections.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Very much.

In this regard, I refer to the fact that the leader of the third party has singled out the honourable member on more than one occasion to justify the fact. I would bring his attention to at least one of his own colleagues who has said back home in the good, old protected hills and valleys of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry that in fact he felt it was an appropriate approach.

I think the honourable member will know that the people who are elected to this House, whether in the Progressive Conservative Party, the New Democratic Party or the Liberal Party, naturally have their own views as to how it would affect their own communities.

I think he will be aware that if the Premier were here to answer the question, as I wish he were, he would point out that these differences are exactly what this bill intends to take into consideration. It is my view that once the leader of the third party

and his sensitive colleagues look at the actual legislation that is presented to them, they will look forward not only to speaking in favour of it but also to voting in favour of it. Give us a chance to examine this legislation.

Mr. Brandt: On more than one occasion the members of the government, including the Deputy Premier and his Premier, have indicated that the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) has made certain comments with respect to Sunday shopping. Let me just say to him, as I have said to my colleague from Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, that that member is free to vote as he chooses in this House.

Is the minister prepared to allow the member for Guelph to vote freely on this issue? That is the question I am raising with him.

Mr. Speaker: The Deputy Premier.

Mr. Brandt: That is not my question; that was a statement.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. In other words, you are saying you want to place another supplementary. Go ahead.

Mr. Brandt: I do want to place a supplementary. It has to do with more than just the member for Guelph. I might want to add to the Deputy Premier that I have nothing but the greatest of respect for the member for Guelph, who speaks out on his individual rights with respect to what his constituents want and has frequently indicated he is opposed to Sunday shopping.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Question.

Mr. Brandt: I had my offices canvass some of the Liberal constituency offices, asking this question, "Does your member support Sunday shopping?" The Deputy Premier would be pleased to know that of the calls we were able to make, 13 said yes; 28 said no, they do not support Sunday shopping; 11 were unsure; and for reasons that are best known to those constituency offices, fully 31 said they did not wish to comment.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Brandt: My question to the—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: I will get to my question.

Mr. Speaker: All right. I just want to remind the member that you have been warming up for two minutes. Please place your question.

Mr. Brandt: I apologize for taking the time of the House, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the Deputy Premier is this: in light of the fact that an overwhelming percentage of those who gave their opinion in this survey indicated they were adamantly opposed to Sunday shopping, will he free up his members and allow a free vote in this House?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: If the honourable member were to examine the legislation, he would be aware that the strength of the legislation and its thrust is to give the responsibility to the municipalities to decide. It seems to me that the honourable members and their staffs or whatever are well within their rights to express that view, because with the passage of this legislation—and the sooner we get to it the better—then the municipalities will be able to decide this and the honourable members, as taxpayers in their local municipalities, will be able to express their views as they see fit.

I see nothing in any way inappropriate in the responses the honourable member got. I simply ask him again to use whatever influence he has with his colleagues, who seem to be moving towards a freer and freer approach to these issues as the days go by, and persuade them to allow the legislation to come before the House for the sort of debate and decision that is the basis of our democratic process.

1430

Mr. Harris: My question is to the honourable government House leader. The government House leader will know that our party, as a social experiment, has proposed that the Ontario Legislature sit on Sundays during the month of May. The reason is that this government seems ready enough to force Sunday working on the people of Ontario, so we believe that, as elected leaders in our community, we should try at first hand what the government wants our constituents to do.

My question to the House leader is quite simple: is his government willing to sit on Sundays, working Sunday to Wednesday of every week in May, so that we can see for ourselves at first hand what the effect of Sunday working will be?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to say to my good friend the member for Nipissing that, after seven months, I really appreciate his giving me the opportunity to engage in this question period—and a more apt and helpful question I could not imagine, because this very day, a few hours ago, the leader of the third party and I were chatting downstairs about our Sunday, yesterday, April 17. It seems that the leader of the third party and I

spent a very busy, hectic day, as members of the Legislature, working almost nonstop on Sunday.

If the member is asking me whether I know anything about working on Sunday, I will answer accordingly. I suspect, like almost all members of this assembly, I work most Sundays and I am sure that members from Nipissing to Cornwall and from Kenora to Kensington would say to me, "Yes, we work all of the time on Sundays." If the member for Nipissing does not, many of us might want to talk to him about how he spends his Sundays.

Mr. Harris: Then presumably the minister would agree with our suggestion since he works on Sunday as it is. There is a slight difference, as he knows, between working in one's riding—not for the members in Toronto, I understand, but for those of us who do not live in Toronto.

Over the last few months, the Premier has said that Sunday working would not affect the quality of life for the family unit in Ontario. I do not think anybody in this room—we do work a lot on Sundays. I am surprised that the House leader accepts that. On February 9 in the Legislature, the Premier quoted jurisdictions that already have Sunday working. He said: "There is no evidence...that this is destroying the family unit. I do not think my friend can present that evidence here at all." My wife, for one, would disagree.

Mr. Speaker: The question.

Mr. Harris: If that is the case and if it does not affect the family unit at all, why will the House leader not agree to our suggestion of a full working day for MPPs in Ontario on Sunday and let us see for ourselves the implications?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I just want to say to my friend the member for Nipissing that I took the principle of his point in question to be simply this: does the government House leader recognize that members might work on Sunday?

My answer to that is, on behalf of myself and many members, including my good friend the distinguished member from Sarnia city and Point Edward village, we work on Sunday. We work on Sunday most of the time. Listening to the leader of the third party—and we had a very friendly chat earlier this afternoon—he sounds as if he worked all day yesterday.

I do not know of what the honourable Tory House leader speaks, because certainly members of this Legislature, over all the years I have been a member, have often—in many cases, they would argue too often—but on many, many occasions, they work on Sunday. The point of the honourable member's question is, it seems to me, after the fact. The fact is, in our business, we

work on Sunday, if not in and around the Legislature, certainly we work very actively in our constituency on many Sundays.

Mr. Harris: By way of final supplementary, I would remind the government House leader that he is fast blowing his one chance to answer a question. One can see why over the past seven months nobody bothers asking him anything.

I know the government House leader is aware of statements that were made by members of the interfaith committee last Friday. They said, contrary to what the Premier said, that Sunday shopping would affect the quality of life in Ontario.

He will also be aware of what we have been talking about, the domino effect, not just of jurisdictions but of a retail worker having to work and what that may do to many, many other employees; maybe he has not accepted that for transit workers, day care workers, city workers, I rhymed off about 20 groups last week. The implication, of course, is that there are a few other people who will have to work on Sunday—our staffs, the people who make this chamber work, the media—and we will get a real firsthand experience of what happens.

I would ask the government House leader one more time not to blow his chance to answer a question. Why would he not agree to what I think is a very logical, straightforward social experiment so that he and I and every Liberal back-bencher can experience exactly what the government is trying to force on the people of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I say to the member for Nipissing that the current legislative timetable and schedule we have is one that was carefully worked out by all members of the assembly through their representatives on a number of committees. I want the member for Nipissing to know that I feel that the current schedule we have is a good consensus.

You know, I heard over the weekend, and I would repeat in final response to the honourable member's question, that surely the fair and reasonable thing to do within the work schedule we now have is to move forward in a positive and a productive sense to deal with the business of this House. Surely as a good democrat, the member for Nipissing would want the government to have the right to put before the chamber the government's position in the form of legislation so that a substantive debate on the issue can begin. Surely my good friend from Nipissing, who, if nothing else—and he is a lot of other things—is a fairminded, reasonable demo-

crat, would concede this much: that the government ought to have the right to introduce this legislation so that the substantive debate can begin. Then we might hear from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) what he thought here last year—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Conway: —when the bookstore amendment was brought forward.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Reville: Throw him out.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: Point of order.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you could just clarify if that was a yes or no.

Mr. Speaker: With respect, I wish all members would take note of the clock and note how long it took for four questions.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and it is not about Sunday shopping; it is about the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

I had occasion recently to write to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) expressing my concern about the Niagara Escarpment, and I received from him assurances that his government was still committed to the Niagara Escarpment plan. I would like to ask the minister, does he support the Niagara Escarpment plan as enunciated in the act of 1985?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: We are committed to the Niagara Escarpment plan. It is a plan that is very unique in this province and in the world, I suppose. It is one that we want to maintain, but also one that we want to be able to live with and to make work.

Mrs. Grier: I am glad the minister wants to make it work, because that is precisely what I was going to ask him about.

Since 1985, the Niagara Escarpment Commission has made 38 recommendations to the Minister of Municipal Affairs with respect to amendments to the plan. The minister has made no decision on 19 of those recommendations; some have been before the minister for almost three years. This kind of delay undermines the credibility of the plan and undermines the credibility of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. How does the minister justify his unwillingness and his stalling of these recommendations

for the plan and what answer has he got to that question?

1440

Hon. Mr. Eakins: A number of the amendments to which the honourable member refers have already been dealt with, are before a committee and will be before cabinet. There are a number of others which are in the process of approval or otherwise. I want to stress one thing, that we are not simply rubber-stamping many of the amendments which come in.

What I am doing, and I am inviting others to do also, is to go out and look at the areas which are affected by those amendments. That is something I have been doing. I have been going out to look at them personally, so I am better acquainted with the work of the commission and also with the amendments which are being presented. I can assure the member that those amendments will not be held up.

SUNSET REVIEW

Mr. Harris: The Treasurer will be aware that there may be a budget coming up on Wednesday. The Treasurer, I think, will also be aware of my special interest in spending wisely to prevent tax increases, deficits and shortfalls in priority spending areas. The Treasurer surely knows that one of the ways we could help achieve this is with mandatory sunset provisions for all expenditure programs, of the type I proposed in resolution and of the type that our party proposed in the prebudget minority report. Will the Treasurer support some form of automatic review of government expenditures through sunset provisions?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The government spending program is reviewed on a regular basis, certainly year by year at budget time. I, personally, think that is sufficient. I do believe that with some pieces of legislation, where an experimental board or some special expenditure comes in, there is nothing wrong with a section calling for a sunset review. Frankly, my own experience dealing with legislation in which the member himself may very well have had a hand in the previous government, is that where sunset reviews have come forward, they have been found to be very limited in their usefulness. I simply return to what I said to begin with, and that is that the Treasurer, in conjunction with his colleagues, reviews spending programs on a regular basis. In my view, I think that works reasonably well and is sufficient.

Mr. Harris: There are many people who think the Treasurer's spending is totally out of control.

The sunset provisions we are talking about force or insist that a committee of the Legislature examine—not some administrative committee, not some ministry committee with a vested interest in carrying on a program—whether it makes sense or not.

When Bill 20 came in, and the employee share ownership plan, I moved an amendment which the minister accepted at that time, for a mandatory sunset review of that program. I say to the Treasurer, surely it cannot hurt to examine an existing program to see if maybe we should be putting more money into it, whether it is doing the job it was intended to do or is out of date. I would ask the Treasurer, in view of past statements he has made on controlling expenditures—statements, not examples—why he would not accept that and reflect it in his budget on Wednesday?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I have already indicated that I do not feel it is necessary, although I have nothing in principle against a formal review. My own responsibility as Treasurer is to review these matters on a regular basis. The honourable member who was asking the question was part of a committee that reviewed the expenditure program of the government and gave its report to the House and to me just a few weeks ago. As I recall, the committee recommended an increase in expenditure of about \$4.5 billion and did not refer to any specific area where revenue might be improved or significant costs controlled.

PURCHASE OF SURPLUS POWER

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. Relatively cheap and abundant energy has contributed to Ontario's economic development, but we may soon have to compete in the American market without the benefit of this important position. We know that Quebec has plans to sell power generated by the James Bay hydro project to American utilities. We know that our federal government is leaning towards a continentalist energy policy. There will be nothing to guarantee access to this Canadian power before it is committed for export. We may even end up paying more for that source of electricity than our American competitors.

My question to the minister is, if there is any chance that electricity from Quebec is a possible option to help satisfy Ontario's future energy needs, can the problems associated with the federal government's continentalist policies be dealt with in any way unilaterally by our own province?

Hon. Mr. Wong: Buying electricity from Quebec is one of Ontario's options in planning to meet its future electricity needs. This option, however, is undermined by the federal government's moves towards a continental energy policy because it encourages utilities with surplus power potential to sell to export markets rather than, first, to Canadians.

These problems cannot be dealt with unilaterally by Ontario. The federal government has its responsibility under the National Energy Board Act to ensure that power to be exported is surplus to reasonably foreseeable Canadian needs, and the federal government is considering new policies for electricity exports.

In addition, the free trade agreement may call into question the existing mechanisms by which electricity planned for export must first be offered to neighbouring Canadian provinces.

Last, may I say I am very concerned about the possible loss of this first-offer mechanism and have expressed these concerns to my associate, the federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Mr. Owen: Should the proposed trade deal go through between Canada and the United States, and since our climate dictates the use of greater energy consumption, are we not giving the United States an unfair advantage with our own energy resources? Are we not putting ourselves into an untenable situation if this goes ahead?

Hon. Mr. Wong: As I indicated in my initial answer, we feel that the present uncertainties are weakening our position in negotiating for possible electricity purchases from neighbouring provinces.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Mr. Wildman: Along the lines of the question asked by my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier), I would like to place a question to the minister for concrete or for agriculture, whichever he prefers to be referred to as, with regard to the protection of one of our most valuable resources.

Ontario food land is disappearing under urban concrete at an alarming rate, and this jeopardizes both the viability of agriculture in this province and the possibility of Ontario being self-sufficient in food commodities. Can the minister tell the House when the government will be releasing the food land preservation policy statement under the Planning Act, which was first circulated for public review over two years ago?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Yes, we have a food land preservation policy ready to go. We will be meeting with various groups. We will be meeting with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; we will be meeting with the Rural Ontario Municipal Association; we will be meeting with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture; we will be meeting with the rural caucus; we will meet with anyone who wants to have some input into this policy, at which time it will then move through the system and go through the committees. I am hoping that within a month or two I will be able to stand in the House and introduce the policy.

Mr. Wildman: I take it from the minister's response that he is prepared to consult with all groups that are interested in this policy and that he hopes that process will be completed this spring.

I remind him that thousands of acres of prime farm land have been lost in the 10 years since the previous government introduced its Food Land Guidelines, and now we have waited two years for this government's policy statement. Can the minister assure the House that when the policy statement is released it will contain deadlines for municipalities to make their official plans adhere to the policy statement?

1450

Hon. Mr. Riddell: We think it is going to be a policy that will be acceptable to the municipalities, the farm organizations and anyone who has any interest whatsoever in food land preservation. It will have a certain element of flexibility in it, because the member knows as well as I do that you cannot stop growth from taking place.

Mr. Wildman: You can direct it, though.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: That is right, and that is what this policy will do. We will attempt to direct planning. We will attempt to assist in the planning done by municipalities so that we can preserve agricultural land wherever possible.

Mr. Runciman: That is window-dressing.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: You cannot simply put a freeze on agricultural land. The member knows and I know that that would be naïve to even think of.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Runciman: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. He may want to refer this, but it deals with the Osborne report. I share with my New Democratic Party colleague the suspicion that release of this report was delayed during deliberations on Bill 2. Will the minister confirm that this report was in the hands

of his government during the period of deliberations on Bill 2?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I can assure the member that it was not. I appreciate the fact that at least the honourable member has couched the situation in more reasonable terms than those expressed earlier in the day. I am glad to have the chance to give all members of the House who might be interested the assurance that the recommendations from Mr. Justice Osborne were definitely not available when the bill was introduced and when it was carried forward in the House.

Mr. Runciman: I will accept that. Changing direction a little bit, as a supplementary, I am wondering if the minister would indicate whether he and his officials and his government share Mr. Justice Osborne's views regarding no-fault auto insurance.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) really ought to answer that one and I do not think it is appropriate to refer it on the basis of a supplementary.

I do want to say that in the instance that really refers to the original question, the member's objections to the concept of Bill 2 as he then understood it, I think the honourable member, who was sitting on the committee reviewing Bill 2, would know that there were significant changes which took place at the committee stage.

I believe there is room for competition in the rate ranges that are envisaged. If the honourable member does not agree with that, he might agree with at least one change which we would agree, both of us, is significant; that is, that the rate review board will have the decisive position having to do with the rate structure itself.

That was one of the areas of concern that Mr. Justice Osborne referred to. I really cannot comment on the timing of the writing of the report, but certainly that had been settled by the committee itself long before the House was reintroduced to the amended bill. Some of the objections which were inherent in his comments about Bill 2, or what became Bill 2, have been modified, I hope, in his own thinking, by events.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Mr. Faubert: My question is to the Minister of Citizenship. As we are aware, immigration plays a very significant role in our economic, social and cultural life in Ontario. Many representatives of our multicultural communities in Ontario have said that nothing makes them more proud than the satisfaction received from participating in the democratic electoral process.

Can the minister advise this House of what initiatives his ministry will undertake to reach out to the multicultural community of our province, to inform them of the newest changes to the enumeration process which the government passed last week?

Hon. Mr. Phillips: I thank the member for his question. As I think most of us in the House know, the government is committed to ensuring that in all our programs and policies we reflect the multicultural reality of this province.

When the bill was passed last week, the first thing we did was to meet with the multilingual media—the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grand-maître), the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) and the parliamentary assistant for Education—to explain the changes. The second thing we are doing is a communications plan, in 40 different languages, to explain the enumeration process and to ensure to the best of our ability that they are aware of it.

We have also notified about 500 community groups that work with people whose first language may not be English or French to inform them of the enumeration process and to suggest that if they have any questions they talk to us and we can talk to them in English, French or in the language of their choice.

The last thing is that if, as a result of the mailing—which, incidentally, goes out at the end of this month to almost six million households—there still is the requirement for enumeration, we will assist in ensuring that enumerators are available to deal with the language of choice. I am hopeful that those activities will be helpful to ensure a strong enumeration.

Mr. Faubert: By way of supplementary, as the minister is aware, Scarborough is a city rich in multicultural diversity and participation, but can the minister advise the House where an immigrant can turn if he or she is having difficulty understanding our electoral process or if he or she has not been reached by those very initiatives the minister has just outlined?

Hon. Mr. Phillips: I guess there are two final things that I have not mentioned. If they still are having difficulty, there is a toll-free number, a 1-800 number, and those phones will be staffed by people who can deal in virtually any language—I will not guarantee every language. If, in the final analysis, they are still having difficulty, I might suggest that they phone the members' offices, and I think each of us will do our very best to respond to those needs.

ABANDONED RAILWAY LINES

Mr. Farnan: My question is to the the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. On March 8, I wrote to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation concerning the concept of converting abandoned railway lines into recreational corridors and linear parkways.

Given that rail companies are abandoning lines in dozens of small communities across the province and given the opportunity these abandoned lines have for recreational uses, will the minister endorse the idea of using abandoned lines for trails, and will the minister today give an assurance to this House that he will take immediate action to protect such corridors for recreational uses?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: As the member may know, the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) asked a similar question concerning lines in our area. I guess I would have to tell the member that we have provided assistance to the county of Hastings and the township of Collingwood so that they can study the feasibility of acquiring abandoned lines in their area, but I might also tell the member that, traditionally, this ministry is not involved in owning and operating recreational facilities.

Mr. Farnan: This is a very important area. Many of these corridors often pass through several municipalities—the minister himself has referred to one already in his own area—and this makes the co-ordination of extended corridors difficult. In my own area, for example, the rail line runs through Cambridge, North Dumfries, Branchton, South Dumfries and part of the village of Harrisburg and ends up at the village of Lynden, thus passing through several communities.

Will the minister acknowledge the need for leadership and not just studies on the part of the provincial government, not only to protect the lines but also to implement a co-ordinated program of conversion for recreational purposes?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I can tell the member that this matter is of concern to us. My ministry staff within both the ministry head office and the regional offices are looking very closely at the problem that exists. I agree with the member that it is, or could be, a very important recreational use.

Again, as I say, it is our preference that in some ways the different municipalities would co-ordinate this effort, since they are usually the owners of recreational facilities. I believe we would be there to assist them in grants and such

things as equipment to help groom trails and look after other maintenance. But again, it is still under review by the ministry and I will get back to the member and other members when a decision is made.

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WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the minister who was disappearing under the desk over there—I see he has now taken his own seat—the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons.

About 190 Metro drivers of Wheel-Trans buses for the disabled have launched a work slowdown effective this morning. Work slowdowns will have a serious effect on disabled persons' ability to get to work on time, to get home in the evenings or to get medical attention.

What does this minister intend to do to ensure that our disabled people will continue to receive regular service, service that they depend on for their livelihood and their health?

Hon. Mr. Mancini: As do all persons working in our society, disabled people to a great extent depend on public transportation, and I am hoping that through negotiations between the employees and the employer we can have an equitable settlement which will prevent to any great extent any disruption to the disabled community.

I have been in touch with the office of the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) and the office of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara). This issue is being monitored and we hope that the disruption the honourable member talks about does not take place.

Mrs. Marland: Any slowdown in fact is a disruption to these people. Wheel-Trans is the only mode of transportation for many disabled people in Metro. Given the legitimate request by Wheel-Trans drivers for wage parity with the Toronto Transit Commission and other drivers, can the minister guarantee to the thousands of people who rely on Wheel-Trans that this dispute will be resolved without strike action and without any further disruption in their lives?

Hon. Mr. Mancini: As the honourable member knows, it is not possible for me, as minister responsible for disabled persons, to resolve the contract dispute between the employees and the employer. We, as a government, as I said earlier, are monitoring the situation. The Minister of Labour has a number of staff people at his disposal within the ministry who can help the employees and the employer negotiate a

settlement. We hope that is exactly what takes place.

The member opposite knows that it is not possible for any of the ministers to issue a contract to both sides and say: "Here it is. Sign it." We are hoping that reason prevails and we are hoping that there is not the disruption to the disabled community that the member is very concerned about.

RETAIL SALES TAX

Mr. Callahan: I have a question for the Treasurer. A short time ago, a constituent of mine brought to my attention a concern. He had gone to purchase a particular commodity at a retail store with one of these coupons that you clip out of the newspaper, whereby you receive a 60-cent or \$1 reduction from the price. He was charged the sales tax on the full price; in other words, the coupon plus what he had paid in cash.

I would like to ask the Treasurer whether that is the appropriate way that retail sales tax is to be applied or whether it is to be applied only on the cash portion of the purchase.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The tax is applicable to the selling price. I really ought to have asked my colleague the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grand-maitre) to answer this because he is knowledgeable in all these important matters, but since the question is put to me, it is on the selling price.

Mr. Callahan: The same constituent brought to my attention the fact that in going to two other stores and employing the same technique, the tax was in fact charged only on the cash portion. In the light of the Treasurer's answer, I wonder whether there is not some confusion out there in the marketplace, and perhaps we are losing significant revenue. I wonder if his office would look into that matter.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The Minister of Revenue and I have been in consultation on this matter, and he has indicated to me that a new bulletin has been issued to clarify once and for all that, as usual, you pay the tax on the larger amount.

ONTARIO SHARE AND DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP.

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a question to the Minister of Financial Institutions. Can the minister explain why he and the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaitre) have rejected the suggestions of Ontario's caisses populaires regarding the Ontario Share and Deposit Insurance Corp.?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It is unfortunate that the question comes at a time when question period is

just completed because it is an extremely important one. Perhaps I might suggest that the honourable member place the question again because—

Mr. Runciman: You'll have an answer tomorrow.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I have an answer now, if the member wants to hear it. I have been somewhat surprised that the honourable members and their colleagues have not brought this matter to my attention because I think it is quite important.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for oral questions and responses.

PETITIONS

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Adams: I have a petition from over 600 people concerning the proposed transfer of Peterborough's oldest high school to the separate board. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, are concerned with the possible transfer of Peterborough collegiate and vocational school from the Peterborough county public board of education to the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Newcastle Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

"The transfer of our school will take place only if the provincial government promises funding for a new separate school by 1994.

"Our separate school board states that they need a school for 1,400 students—our school has a ministry-rated capacity of only 1,020.

"The regulations of Bill 30 state that no funding will be given where there is sufficient space in the public school system to absorb the excessive students from the separate school system.

"Therefore, we feel that building a new separate school in the Peterborough area is a waste of taxpayers' money and we want the Minister of Education to turn down our separate school board's request for funding for a new school."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition that is signed by 16 people from Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma district and it reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

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"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. Harris: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson has refused to listen to the people of Ontario and has chosen to unilaterally impose Sunday shopping on an unwilling public, we request that consideration be given to the views of these persons from North Bay who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"'In recognition of the importance of a day of pause in our Canadian society, we ask that the Retail Business Holidays Act be maintained and strengthened and that the act remain under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Legislature, rather than be transferred to local municipalities for administration.'"

This is signed by a goodly number of citizens of my riding, the great riding of Nipissing.

Mr. Laughren: This is a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers,

groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario"—NATO—"families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. Speaker: Just before I recognize any other members, I might inform the House, as I have on previous occasions, and now having listened to two petitioners today, I believe the petitions were exactly the same. I would like to remind all members of 31(a) and 31(b), that, "A petition to the House may be presented at any time during the session by a member filing it with the Clerk of the House or in the manner set out in clause (b)."

I would just like to again remind all members of clause (b): "A member may present"—I hope they will take note of that word "present"—"a petition from his place in the House during the routine proceedings under the proceeding 'Petitions.' He shall endorse his name thereon and confine himself to a statement of the petitioners, the number of signatures and the material allegations."

Many members may recall that there have been a number of occasions in the last year or two years when I have reminded members that it is not necessary to read the "whereases." The "therefore" really contains what we call the "material allegation." I would appreciate it if all members could adhere to the rules.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Sola: I have a petition here from the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association and from the Dufferin-Peel separate school board. The petition reads as follows:

"The Dufferin-Peel separate school board is in drastic need of capital funding for the year 1988-89. Present school buildings are bursting at

the seams. Projected growth indicates that the system will expand by 4,000 additional students next year. The provincial government must show their commitment to quality education by providing the capital funds required. These funds are a realistic need, not a luxury.

"Quality education deserves an adequate physical environment. The students, parents and teachers of Dufferin-Peel are entitled to no less."

It is signed by over 100 people, including teachers and students.

MOBILE HOME INSURANCE

Mr. Kozyra: I would like to introduce a petition from constituents of the riding of Cochrane North regarding concerns about mobile home insurance policies. Thank you.

HEURES OUVRABLES

RETAIL STORE HOURS

M. Villeneuve: J'ai une pétition qui se lit comme suit:

«À l'honorable lieutenant-gouverneur et à l'Assemblée législative de la province de l'Ontario:

«Nous, les soussignés, soumettons la pétition ci-jointe au parlement de l'Assemblée législative de la province de l'Ontario», laquelle provient des évêques catholiques de l'Ontario:

«Le dimanche est, pour les chrétiens, la célébration hebdomadaire de la résurrection du Seigneur, du triomphe de la vie sur la mort, une célébration de paix et de réconciliation.

«Beaucoup de nos concitoyens et concitoyennes de l'Ontario ne partagent pas cette vision du dimanche, mais tous tiennent à sauvegarder un rythme de vie ordonné qui consacre le dimanche au repos et aux joies familiales.

«Nous demandons instamment que soit respectée cette tradition établie chez nous depuis longtemps, mais qui tend malheureusement un peu partout à disparaître. Octroyer aux juridictions locales le pouvoir d'opter pour l'ouverture illimitée des magasins le dimanche signifierait l'abandon de cette tradition historique de l'Ontario au jeu de la compétition commerciale et de l'opportunisme économique.

«Nous insistons donc auprès du gouvernement de l'Ontario pour qu'il tienne compte des appels lancés par les familles, les travailleurs et travailleuses, les hommes et les femmes d'affaires, et renverse sa politique de "l'option locale". Nous pensons que seule une ligne d'action commune à toute la province pourra protéger les valeurs familiales qu'avec un grand

nombre de nos concitoyens inquiets nous considérons comme étant ici indubitablement en jeu. »

Elle est signée par les évêques catholiques de la province de l'Ontario ainsi que moi-même.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a petition signed by residents of Toronto of which I would like to read all the material allegations because they are slightly different from those just brought in by the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren).

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and"—

Mr. Black: Heard that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Parts of it are similar and there are parts that are different.

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

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"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that, on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unneces-

sary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and"

You will notice that part was different from what was in the last one.

Mr. Speaker: I am listening carefully.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: "Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regarding Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I will duly sign it.

Mr. Speaker: This again might be the appropriate time for me to remind the honourable members of section 31(b) which states that the member may present a petition and confine himself to a statement of the petitioners, including the material allegations, not the reasons for the material allegations. I hope that is helpful to the member.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Perhaps you can be clearer in what you are suggesting to us. You are much more expert at the rules than I would claim to be.

It is my understanding, in the way these petitions are worded and the way the petitions are worded that are presented to parliament, that the "whereases" are the material allegations and the urging of the government is, in fact, the action statement that the petitioners are asking the government. So we are reading strictly material allegations and the conclusions that arise out of those material allegations.

I do not think there has been any precedent set in this Legislature, since I have been a member, when a Speaker has ruled that we cannot read the entire petitions. Unless you are prepared to rule in some way, I suggest that the best way to

proceed this afternoon is to allow the petitions to be heard in parliament.

Mr. Speaker: I am not here to debate the matter. I am here to try to assist the members to understand the rules as they have been set out and passed by the members of the House. I think it is probably a matter of opinion as to which are the material allegations. As I have said, I have stated on a number of other occasions that I felt that when you came to the "therefore," that would be the material allegation.

Mr. Faubert: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is signed by a number of electors of Ontario and I have appended my own signature. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Honourable Joan Smith, Solicitor General, the Honourable Ian Scott, Attorney General, and the Honourable Gregory Sorbara, Minister of Labour, have made statements to the Legislature announcing the introduction of legislation dealing with the Retail Business Holidays Amendment Act and companion amendments to the Employment Standards Act to protect all retail workers in Ontario; and

"Whereas these aforementioned legislative initiatives will address the present inequities and unfairness of the existing Retail Business Holidays Act by amending this act to create a new act which is fair, because it allows freedom of choice to Ontario communities, is workable and enforceable, provides effective protection for all retail workers, provides for an orderly transition of exemptions over a five-year period, protects religious beliefs and treats retailers across the province more equitably; and

"Whereas the opposition parties by way of exploiting the standing orders of this Legislature by presenting a series of petitions to the Legislature in a manner which is delaying the traditional proceedings and business of this House are doing a disservice to the people of Ontario; and

"Whereas this repetitious presentation of petitions is thereby delaying unnecessarily the introduction, debate and referral of this legislation to committee, thereby further delaying said legislation which will provide the people of Ontario with fair, coherent, enforceable law which allows them freedom of choice based on needs and values of their communities; corrects the previous legislation which was widely abused; gives all retail workers the right of refusal of Sunday work, a new right for every

worker in the retail sector in Ontario; gives retail lessees the freedom to choose whether to open or close on Sunday without threat of reprisal; reflects the Supreme Court of Canada's interpretation of freedom of religion under the charter by recognizing a new Sabbatarian exemption which protects retailers who observe a Sabbath other than Sunday; and

"Whereas delaying of the introduction and debate of this legislation further delays the proceedings and legitimate business of this Legislature and further contributes to the dissemination of the opposition myth that this legislation proposes a 'wide-open' Sunday whereas the opposite is the objective of the legislation;

"Therefore we, the undersigned, hereby petition the Legislature of Ontario to cease this abuse of the traditions of this House and Parliament in general and allow debate on the Sunday closing legislation to proceed."

Mr. Speaker: It would certainly appear to me that the members do not agree with the Speaker's interpretation of the standing order. The member for Mississauga South.

Mr. Faubert: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do concur with your ruling and that was a ruling I sought last Thursday, when I raised the matter in the House.

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. This petition is from St. Stephen's-on-the-Hill United Church, Indian Road, Mississauga and it states:

"We, the undersigned members and adherents of St. Stephen's-on-the-Hill United Church, wish to express our opposition to the provincial government transferring authority to legislate on Sunday shopping entirely to the municipalities and to our opposition to open Sundays in Ontario."

This petition is signed by 42 persons.

I also have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from the Clarkson Road Presbyterian Church, Clarkson Road, Mississauga, which states:

"We are wishing to express our opposition to expanding Sunday shopping. We believe the availability of Sunday retail shopping has gone far enough. To further extend Sunday shopping would make Sundays no different from the rest of the week. It would further disrupt the family unit and weaken our social structure. Not only would regular shopping take place on Sunday, but some family members would also be required to man

these stores on a day that should be more centred around the family unit.

"We provided the opportunity for families in our congregation to record their opposition to Sunday shopping during two Sundays in March and this petition has also included that the laws regarding Sunday opening should remain in the hands of the provincial government."

Attached is this petition which includes 134 names opposed to Sunday shopping.

I have another petition.

1530

Mr. Speaker: I believe there was an agreement to rotate.

Mrs. Marland: We missed a couple of turns, but I will adhere to your direction.

Mr. Pouliot: With the highest respect, the point is well taken. However, I have a petition signed by two concerned residents, one from Guelph and the other concerned citizen from the city of Toronto. They are of the opinion that the message can never be repeated too often. As always, it is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon

common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. McLean: I have a petition signed by 31 people addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The petition opposes Sunday shopping and supports keeping Sunday as a day of rest.

"Whereas this sensitive issue, as you are aware, has been debated for now approximately two years, the government has chosen not to consult with the working people of this province during its deliberations. In this instance, I am referring to the people who are going to have to give up their family time on Sunday in order to work or, in some instances, going to work will interfere with their religious beliefs;

"Whereas it is incredible to me that the government acted in such an irresponsible manner as to push this issue off on to the municipalities without any consultation or thought as to the chaos this would create;

"In accordance with, and in support of, the joint declaration of the Roman Catholic archdio-

cese of Toronto, the United Church, the Greek Orthodox church and the Anglican diocese of Toronto, I enclose a list of names and addresses of members of the congregation of St. Luke's Anglican church, Price's Corners, who support keeping Sunday as a day of rest and therefore are opposed to open Sundays."

I also have another petition, signed by 120 people, addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. This petition also opposes Sunday shopping and supports keeping Sunday as a day of rest. It reads as follows:

"Whereas this sensitive issue, as you are aware, has been debated now for approximately two years, the government chose not to consult with the working people of this province during its deliberations. In this instance, I am referring to the people who are going to have to give up their family time on Sunday in order to work or, in some instances, going to work will interfere with their religious beliefs;

"Whereas it is incredible to me that the government acted in such an irresponsible manner as to push this issue off on to the municipalities without any consultation or thought as to the chaos it would create;

"The question of Sunday openings across the province of Ontario presents a difficult problem for many of us. We do not limit our reservations to religious grounds. We are deeply concerned, on humanitarian grounds, about the effect a wide-open Sunday would have on family life and employment practices. To keep Sunday as a day of rest and family contact will be virtually impossible for many, due to the business pressures which will be exerted even on those who wish to close.

"We, the undersigned, wish our member of the provincial Legislature and our municipal representatives to know our position on this matter. We make this statement and appeal, in conjunction with the Anglican Church of the diocese of Toronto, the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Toronto and the United Church and the Greek Orthodox church."

I also have another petition, signed by—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member for Mississauga South.

Mrs. Marland: No.

The Deputy Speaker: No?

Mrs. Marland: Yes, OK.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member can't just rush in here and petition.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes or no?

Mrs. Marland: Yes; thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not left here. The Speaker should know I have not left the chamber yet this afternoon.

I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which reads:

"I am becoming increasingly uneasy about the apparent collapse of Liberal morality. In this instance, I am referring to the party's efforts to permit Sunday shopping in Ontario. I presume you have been made aware of the arguments against wide-open Sunday shopping, and for that reason I will not repeat them. I assume that you know as well as I the effect Sunday shopping will have on family life, on workers and on the community.

"Perhaps you should recognize the validity of these arguments. The Premier has been elected to represent the citizens of Ontario. Listen to us. Please have the foresight to prevent the demise of our society. Please ensure that Sunday shopping is not permitted anywhere in Ontario. This province does not want Sunday shopping. Listen to us, the people of Ontario, and heed our advice."

This is signed by Alison Williams of 1495 Clarkson Road North, Mississauga, and she is 20 years of age.

Ms. Bryden: I have a petition on the subject of Sunday shopping to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is from four constituents, and I know that they will definitely want to see it in Hansard, so that the government may be aware of their opinions on this subject. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

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"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I support the petition.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's proposal for Sunday shopping does not mean more business, but rather the same business spread over seven instead of six days, thereby increasing costs for both retailers and consumers, we request that consideration be given to the views of 52 persons from London—

Mr. Villeneuve: London?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: —the Premier's home town—"who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's

retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families.'"

This is signed by myself.

I have another petition and it also is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the member for Middlesex (Mr. Reycraft), the member for Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong), the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams) and the member for Cornwall (Mr. Cleary), all Liberal members of this Legislature, have endorsed petitions opposed to Sunday shopping; and

"Whereas the Premier has chosen to push on with legislation contrary to the personal wishes of his own caucus"—imagine that—"we request that consideration be given to the views of 53 persons from across Ontario who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I have signed that as well.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition signed by a number of people going through one of the shopping malls in my riding—

Mr. Ballinger: A bowling alley?

Mr. Mackenzie: We have some more coming from there later today.

Mr. Callahan: Have you got someone out there doing it now?

Mr. Mackenzie: How is the Don Jail these days?

Mr. Callahan: I don't know. Why don't you go down there and get a few signatures?

Mr. Mackenzie: That's where they all end up, anyway.

The Deputy Speaker: The member will address his petition through the chair.

Mr. Mackenzie: The petition reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already clearly indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature"—including the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith)—"reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Signed by seven people on a fast run through the Centre Mall plaza in my riding.

Mrs. Cunningham: I have a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the real issue is working on Sundays, not shopping on Sundays;

"Whereas Sunday shopping won't improve family life;

"Whereas Sunday shopping is unfair to certain retail employees;

"Whereas customers are not demanding more shopping time;

"Whereas no retailer can afford to lose the competitive edge;

"Whereas we would like to add our voices to the growing concern over Sunday shopping;

"We strongly oppose Sunday openings. We are not concerned about Sunday shopping. We are concerned about having to work on Sunday."

The petition has been signed by 13 persons from across Ontario, and they state that they believe the Ontario government must act to maintain Sunday as a common pause day, and the decision to remain closed and to enforce closing must be made at the provincial level.

I have signed this petition and I will turn it over at this time to the House.

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Mr. Reville: I should like to present a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas, it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This petition is signed by seven petitioners, and I have endorsed my name hereon pursuant to rule 31(b) of the standing orders.

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a petition as follows:

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario, as follows:

"Whereas Sunday shopping will impact negatively on single-parent families, we request that consideration be given to the views of 49 individuals from across the length and breadth of this province"—they cover the town of Prescott, the town of Puslinch and the town of Parkhill—who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need or want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I fully endorse this petition.

Mr. Charlton: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the

Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by four residents from my riding. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and

to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have added my name to that petition.

I have another petition here from members of the congregation from Olivet United Church in my riding.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: How many on that?

Mr. Charlton: How many on this?

Mr. D. R. Cooke: You had four on the last one.

Mr. Charlton: Oh, it looks like about 30.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

Mr. D. R. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would question the propriety of a member of this House signing a petition in the House to present it to the House. Surely those petitions are to be signed outside the House and then presented by the constituents to the member to be presented to the House.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order: For a petition to be in order in this House, the member presenting it must also sign it.

Mr. B. Rae: It has to be endorsed by the member. When you present the petition, you have to endorse it. All you are doing is endorsing it.

The Deputy Speaker: Please proceed.

Mr. Charlton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and that they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that legislation governing Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening bylaws would set one municipality against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace. Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to municipalities."

Mr. Cousens: I have a petition from residents of the town of Markham, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the all-party committee of the Legislature on retail store hours unanimously recommended a common pause day so that families can get together and whereas the Solicitor General, the Honourable Joan Smith, signed that committee report but now has failed to live by its recommendations, we request that consideration be given to the views of the 15 persons from the town of Markham who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:
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"We, the undersigned, wish to express our opposition to changes in Sunday shopping laws which threaten to transform Sunday into just another day for doing business.

"The undersigned are in favour of limiting Sunday shopping for the following reasons:

"1. As Christians in the reform tradition"—these are all members and adherents of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Markham—"we value Sunday as a day for worship and rest.

"2. Regardless of religion, families need a regular, patterned opportunity for the whole family to share time.

"3. Regardless of religion, individuals need a regular, consistent opportunity for rest and recreation. An open Sunday will erode that opportunity greatly."

It was signed by these constituents and also by myself in submitting it.

Miss Martel: It is a pleasure for me to join in this democratic process. I too have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario;' and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for

the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government;’ and

“Whereas the report also said, ‘The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario;’ and

“Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

“Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government’s intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

“Whereas the government’s stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

“We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario.”

Mr. Villeneuve: I too have a petition. It reads as follows:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas David Peterson’s wide-open Sunday shopping will erode the tradition of a common day of rest and the cohesiveness of the family unit, we request that consideration be given to the views of 50 residents from the London area”—home of the Premier, home of the Solicitor General and home of our newest colleague, the member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham)—“people who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

“We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province’s retail employees, who will have to spend Sunday at work instead of with their families.”

I fully endorse this petition and have signed it.

Mr. Hampton: It is indeed a pleasure to be able to convey to the House the feelings and views of some of the members of my constituency. They have stated as follows:

To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

“Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government’s intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don’t want it; and”—

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I think there needs to be some accuracy here. If we are not allowed to introduce an accurate bill, then let us at least stay with the facts. Nobody has said we are going to repeal anything.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: First, I would like you to rule as to whether that is indeed a point of order, since it is hardly appropriate for a member of the House to determine whether a petitioner, in making a legitimate petition, is telling the truth.

The Deputy Speaker: That is not a point of order; it is a point of information. Will the member for Rainy River please continue?

Mr. Hampton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I might say to the Solicitor General, if I may, that if she wishes to conduct a more—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Please read your petition through the Speaker.

Mr. Hampton: “Whereas the Legislature’s select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: ‘The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario’; and

“Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee’s report was as follows: ‘The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government’; and

“Whereas the report also said, ‘The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario’; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

That petition is signed by 15 residents of the township of Atikokan and it is also signed by myself.

Mr. Allen: I have two petitions here, one to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

This is signed by 35 people and I have endorsed it.

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I have, further, a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This is signed by 14 persons and I have endorsed the petition.

Mrs. Cunningham: I have a number of petitions with regard to Sunday shopping. They are from around the London area, most of them from the county of Middlesex.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson has refused to listen to the people of Ontario and has chosen to unilaterally impose Sunday shopping on an unwilling public, we request that consideration be given to the views of 106 persons from London and vicinity who have signed a petition which reads, in part"—this is only part of it—"as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I have added my signature to this and I will turn them over to the House at this time

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a petition here from 30 some people from Westmount Baptist Church in Hamilton West, the riding of the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen), in the city just 45 or 50 miles east of here—

Mr. Wildman: West of here.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: —west of here—that I have no doubt you have visited any number of times, Mr. Speaker. I was thinking east; I always think of you, Mr. Speaker. To get to the petition itself:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned"—those people from Hamilton West that I mentioned—"beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government"—some here in the House, I will note—"have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987"—less than a year ago—"as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holi-

days Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This, again, was signed by 37 members of the Westmount Baptist Church and by myself, and I concur wholeheartedly.

Mr. McLean: "We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the member for Middlesex (Mr. Reycraft), the member for Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong), the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams), the member for Cornwall (Mr. Cleary)"—and probably several other Liberal backbenchers; these are all Liberal members of this Legislature—"have endorsed petitions opposed to Sunday shopping; and

"Whereas the Premier has chosen to push on with legislation contrary to the personal wishes of his own caucus, we request that consideration be given to the views of 53 persons from across Ontario who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's

retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families.”

I have another petition:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas David Peterson’s wide-open Sunday shopping will erode the tradition of a common pause day of rest and the cohesiveness of the family unit, we request that consideration be given to the views of 47 persons from across Ontario who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

“We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province’s retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families.”

Mr. B. Rae: I have a petition signed by several members of Humbercrest United Church, 16 Baby Point Road in Toronto, which is not too far from where I live, so many of my neighbours have signed this.

Mr. Miller: Editorializing?

Mr. B. Rae: I am just informing the House with respect to where these people are from. I would like to read it, as follows:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government’s intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don’t want it; and

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“Whereas the Legislature’s select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: ‘The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario’; and

“Whereas the report also said, ‘The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario’; and

“Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: ‘The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure’; and

“Whereas it continued: ‘This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who

might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families’; and

“Whereas the report continued as follows—”

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I am being heckled so strongly it is hard for me to even hear the sound of my own constituents, and I am sure you would not want that to happen.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. B. Rae: “‘Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family, which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society’; and

“Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women’s directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes and hours of work and hours of business in terms of ‘recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together’ and the need to ‘ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together’; and

“Whereas the government’s stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

“We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario.”

It is signed by a number of constituents.

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition. It reads as follows:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas the majority of Ontarians want family time together and not wide-open Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given

to the views of 53 persons from London who have signed this petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

It is signed by 53 people from the London area.

I have another petition. It reads as follows:

"To His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the majority of Ontarians want family time together and not wide-open Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of these people from Hastings county who have signed this petition."

It is signed by 16 people from the county of Hastings.

Le vice-président: Le député d'Algoma.

Mr. Wildman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Did anyone ever tell you that you have a remarkable resemblance to Louis Napoleon?

The Deputy Speaker: The petition is?

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows"—

Mr. Reycraft: You can't insult the Speaker like that.

Mr. Wildman: I did not mean it as an insult. I meant it as a compliment—a Bonaparte indeed.

The Deputy Speaker: Please carry on with the petition.

Mr. Wildman: I will start over.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal"—red-tie—"government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal"—red-tie—"government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, which have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three

political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and"—

Mr. Callahan: We're going to give you an A-plus.

Mr. Wildman: He is interrupting.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Wildman: "Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned with the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This petition is signed by two ladies from Algoma, one of whom is my wife.

Mr. Villeneuve: I also have a petition signed by 55 people from London and Ingersoll—a number of Smiths from Ingersoll, by the way. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows"—

Mr. Callahan: You got that in Niagara Falls, I bet.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a very strong voice, Mr. Speaker.

"Whereas Premier David Peterson wants world-class Sunday shopping, but the people of Ontario do not, we request that consideration be given to the views of 55 persons"—whose names are attached hereto—"a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I have signed and endorsed this petition and I present it to the Legislature.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I present this petition probably on behalf of the member for Middlesex (Mr. Reycraft) more than anyone else in this place.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

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"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to

municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This is signed by a remarkable group of people who gathered on Saturday night to nominate for re-election Howard McCurdy in the great riding of Windsor-St. Clair-Beach."

Mrs. Marland: I stand to present a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Ontario municipalities are opposed to the Peterson local option for Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of these 45 persons from Lyndwood United Church, in the riding of Mississauga South, Mississauga, who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We love our families. Do not legislate employees to work on Sundays. We do not need wide-open Sunday shopping."

I also have another petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"This brief is to express our strong opposition to Sunday openings across the province of Ontario.

"First, as Christians and Roman Catholics, members of St. Christopher's parish, we feel this will take away a great deal of the sacredness of Sunday."

Mr. Black: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Did I understand the member to suggest that Christians and Roman Catholics are not the same?

The Deputy Speaker: Out of order.

Mrs. Marland: I think it is unfortunate to be interrupted by someone who questions the Roman Catholic Church and Christianity.

The Deputy Speaker: The petition is?

Mrs. Marland: I will continue to read this petition in its total context:

"This brief is to express our strong opposition to Sunday openings across the province of Ontario.

"First, as Christians and Roman Catholics, members of St. Christopher's parish, we feel this will take away a great deal of the sacredness of Sunday. At the rate it's going, soon there will be a new calendar with only six days in a week. There won't be a day left called Sunday, as it is being treated like any other day.

"Secondly, even for people without strong religious convictions, it has a tremendous impact on their family life as they feel undue pressure to compete with neighbouring businesses or they are harassed by demanding employees. Along with the effect on family life is the added stress on their physical and emotional wellbeing.

"Looking at the overall picture, it somehow does not seem to justify one extra day. Are six days not enough? Rest, relaxation, family contact should be one of greater value and importance.

This petition is signed by Joseph and Suzanne Campbell of 1381 Seaview Drive, Mississauga, and I present this petition on their behalf.

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as

follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We therefore urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

It is signed by 28 citizens of the province.

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson has refused to listen to the people of Ontario and has chosen to unilaterally impose Sunday shopping on an unwilling public, we request that consideration be given to the views of 52 persons from London who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

As I say, it is signed by 52 people from the London area.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the all-party committee of the Legislature on retail store hours unanimously recommended a common pause day so that families can get together; and

"Whereas the Solicitor General, Joan Smith, signed that committee report but has now failed to live up to its recommendations, we request that consideration be given to the view of 19 persons from Northumberland county."

It is signed, as I say, by 19 people from Northumberland county.

1640

Ms. Bryden: I wish to present a petition in opposition to Sunday shopping from some residents of Metropolitan Toronto, and I am proud to engage in this democratic process of bringing their petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. I hope that they are both and all of them listening.

The petitioners request as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to

municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I support this petition.

Mrs. Marland: I rise to present a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which says:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are opposed to Sunday shopping and we want to retain a common pause day in Ontario. We oppose the transfer to the municipalities of responsibility in this matter."

This petition is signed by 135 members of the First United Church, Port Credit, Mississauga, and comes in addition to a petition that was presented from this church last week.

I also have a second petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas individuals need a regular, consistent opportunity for rest and recreation; and

"Whereas an open Sunday will erode that opportunity greatly;

"We request that consideration be given to the views of 53 people from across Ontario who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

Mr. Mackenzie: This is probably the most important petition of all in the number that I still

have on my desk, although it contains only two names, one of them being the person I listen to most, and that is my good wife. She also made it clear that I was to tell the House what she thought of it, and that is exactly what we are doing.

Mr. Black: Who is the second one, Bob?

Mr. Mackenzie: A retired social worker of some renown in our community.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and"—

Interjections.

Mr. Mackenzie: My wife says you people should be ashamed of yourselves.

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and"—

Mr. Ballinger: So do we.

Mr. Mackenzie: Why don't you vote against it, then?

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order.

Mr. Mackenzie: "Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire;"—I think the vote was 60-some to three—"and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in

Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together"—and all of us should know something about that—

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I am proud to submit that with the names on it and my own signature on it.

1650

Mr. McLean: I just want to complete the petitions that I have here and I will be finished for the day. I want to present this petition on behalf of a lot of those people from Waterloo who are very much opposed to Sunday shopping.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's proposal for Sunday shopping does not mean more business, but rather the same business spread over seven instead of six days, thereby increasing costs for both retailers and consumers, we request that consideration be given to the views of 52 persons from across Ontario who have signed a petition, which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sunday at work instead of with their families."

I have another petition. It is on behalf of a lot of those people from Muskoka, Georgian Bay and Midland who do not have the opportunity to have their member get up here and make this presentation. I want to do it on their behalf. It says:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas individuals need a regular, consistent opportunity for rest and recreation; and

"Whereas an open Sunday will erode that opportunity greatly;

"We request that consideration be given to the views of 52 persons from across Ontario who have signed a petition, which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families in Midland and Muskoka in the summer."

Mr. Reville: I have a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely

to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario"

This petition is signed by three petitioners, all of whom live in Toronto.

Mr. Cousens: I am very sorry that I have to present another petition, but there are many more to come. They are just coming in faster than we can read them. This petition reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to present this petition to the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the majority of Ontarians want family time together and not wide-open Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of these persons who have signed a petition, which reads, in part, as follows:

"We, the undersigned, wish to express our opposition to changes in Sunday shopping laws which threaten to transform Sunday into just another day for doing business. The undersigned are in favour of limiting Sunday shopping for the following reasons:

"1. As Christians in the reformed tradition, we value Sunday as a day for worship and rest.

"2. Regardless of religion, families need a regular, patterned opportunity for the whole family to share time.

"3. Regardless of religion, individuals need a regular, consistent opportunity for rest and recreation. An open Sunday will erode that opportunity."

I present this petition from people of the town of Markham.

Mr. Charlton: I have a petition signed by 16 members of the Olivet United Church in Hamilton, who are residents of my riding and the good riding of Hamilton West.

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and that they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that legislation governing Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening by-laws would set one municipality against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace;

"Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to municipalities."

Mr. Eves: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas David Peterson wants world-class Sunday shopping but the people of Ontario do not, we request that consideration be given to the views of 51 persons"—and I know the Speaker will be interested in this—"from St. Thomas, Ontario, who have signed the petition, which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

Mr. Farnan: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal Government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have a petition, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas individuals need a regular, consistent opportunity for rest and recreation; and

"Whereas an open Sunday will erode that opportunity greatly;

"We request that consideration be given to the views of 48 persons from London who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I am very pleased to have signed that petition. I have one other petition, which is also addressed

to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas David Peterson's wide-open Sunday shopping will erode the tradition of a common day of rest and the cohesiveness of the family unit, we request that consideration be given to the views of 52 persons from across Ontario who have signed a petition, which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I support that very strongly and have signed the petition.

Mr. Allen: I have a petition in my hand from 17 members of Melrose United Church in Hamilton as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I endorse this petition and I send it to the Clerk.

Mrs. Marland: It gives me pleasure to present this petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned, members of the church of St. Luke, 1513 Dixie Road, Mississauga, wish to express opposition to wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario. We believe it would be harmful to family life and employment practices. We urge that Sunday be kept as a day of pause and an opportunity for family contact."

This petition is signed by 106 members of St. Luke's Anglican Church.

I have a second petition, which says:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Please do not let the government be remembered as the group that struck the final blows to the family in Ontario. Two tremendously dangerous events are uncontrolled abortion and shopping allowed on Sunday. Each will, in its way, further erode the family. When the family goes, most of the values on which our society rests will go too. Please do not let that happen."

This petition is signed by Mr. J. E. Graham, 275 Oakhill Road, Mississauga, Ontario.

Mr. Philip: I have a petition signed by members of St. Andrew's Anglican church, located at 14 Barkwin Drive in Rexdale, Ontario, M9V 2W1.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercialization of life, through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have another petition from Fonthill, Ontario.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, citizens of Ontario, residing in the region of Niagara, support the intent and recommendations of the all-party committee of the Ontario Legislature and the ruling handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada rejecting wide-open Sunday shopping and recognizing the need for a common pause day for family nurture;

"We therefore call upon the Premier, David Peterson, and his government to pass province-wide legislation rejecting wide-open Sunday shopping and upholding Sunday as our common pause day."

I have signed both of these petitions.

1710

Mr. Runciman: I have one petition from my riding, the village of Merrickville, the members of the Anglican Church Women. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, members of the Anglican Church Women, wish to state that we are opposed to the opening of stores for Sunday shopping. We fully believe that Sunday should be a day of relaxation among families."

It is signed by approximately 30 members of that organization. It is from the Holy Trinity Church in Merrickville.

Miss Martel: It is a pleasure to participate this afternoon. If the Liberals in the corner want to participate as well, we would be more than welcome to supply them with petitions.

The Acting Speaker: And your petition is?

Miss Martel: I have a petition, as my other colleagues have, to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It states, and I would like to read this to the House:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'"—

Mr. Callahan: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: I refer you to standing order 31(b). The recitals of these petitions are all getting to sound very familiar. I draw to the attention of the Speaker the fact that it must be "a statement of the petitioners." I would like to know whether this is a statement of the petitioners or whether this is a document that has been drawn up by the people presenting it, and in fact submitting it to this House. If it is, I suggest it is out of order.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Brampton South makes a point which I believe has already been commented on about twice by the Speaker himself. I request that the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) continue as quickly as possible.

Mr. Breaugh: Madam Speaker, I do not know whether the member did so intentionally, but certainly there was a great deal of imputing of motives there. A member stood in his place and suggested that a petition was being improperly presented to the assembly. More than that, he implied that a member had deliberately done something that I suppose could best be called tampering with the petition. It may be a small point, and the member may not have meant to do so, but he has left on the record a clear implication that someone has altered a petition being presented in the assembly. That is quite a serious allegation. I hope it was a frivolous interjection and I think he should take the opportunity to withdraw that.

Mr. Callahan: On a point of privilege, Madam Speaker: I raised in this House what I suggest I considered to be a legitimate objection, the fact that the petitions being presented are to be in the words of the petitioners, and if in fact they have not put forward those words in the petitions, then they are out of order under that rule.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Madam Speaker, under standing order 31 there are a number of sections, more than 31(b). I know it is hard for the member

sometimes to get past the early ones. He will notice that standing order 31(e) indicates, "Members presenting petitions are answerable that they do not contain any improper matter," and we are requested not to bring in certain kinds of information. For instance, we are not allowed to have mimeographed signatures or duplicated signatures in that fashion; they must be signed.

Therefore, one must presume that if a person affixes his name to the same page upon which the material allegations are listed, that person has understood the matter before him and that the member introducing the information is doing so with the full knowledge of that person who has signed. I suggest to him that this has been done and that he is wrong to suggest that anything other than that has occurred.

Mr. Breaugh: I do not wish to belabour the point, but I do think that a serious allegation has been made. Members will know, because the Speaker throughout the last couple of days has made it very clear, that it is our obligation, when somebody presents us with a petition, to present it to the assembly. That is our obligation as members. The assembly does not debate the matter, but members do have a right to hear what people have said. As a matter of fact, I would say it is a little more than that: It is an obligation to hear the petition.

All that members are doing is presenting petitions which have been given to us by members of the general public. We have been asked by the Speaker to assign our names, and basically that is simply an indication that the sponsoring member does not particularly agree or disagree, though he may, but that it is a legitimate petition. We are presenting this afternoon legitimate petitions to the assembly.

In the course of this, a member has made an allegation that we are doctoring those petitions. That is not true, and since I have been a member here I have never heard a member accuse someone else of doing that, even though there certainly have been a number of petitions presented where obviously the member does not agree with the content or the allegations that are made in the petition. We all understand that when somebody hands you a petition and asks you to present it to the assembly, that is part of our job as members and we do it as a regular course, and through this afternoon members from each of the parties represented here have taken the opportunity during petitions to present that.

Now, it seems to me that that is not very much of an obligation on the part of the government. All it is doing is simply listening to what the

general public has to say through the means of a petition. I do not think that is such a gross obligation to put on the part of the government, and I would once again ask the member to withdraw his allegations.

Mr. Wildman: I can assure members that every petition that is being presented by this caucus has been signed by individuals who have read the petition and have seen the total petition.

We must accept—I would hope all members would accept—the veracity of an individual's signature, someone from the general public who has signed his or her name. To suggest that somehow those signatures are not true signatures of people who have read this petition, have either prepared it themselves or have read it after it was prepared by someone else, agreed with the statements on it and therefore signed it, is a very serious allegation. I want to assure members that we have many of these petitions yet to present, and every one of them was read and signed by the people whose names are listed.

Mr. Callahan: Madam Speaker, I am not suggesting for one moment that the signatures are not accurate and proper signatures. What I am suggesting is that, as you listen to the petitions being read, there seems to be a rhyme that runs through where some of them are very similar in terms of the recitals, and what I am suggesting—

An hon. member: As were many that you presented over the years.

Mr. Callahan: I accept the statement made by the honourable members that, in fact, in each case these were read over by the people who signed them, because if they were not, then I suggest they are out of order under standing order 31(b) because they are not the statements of the petitioners.

Mr. Epp: Madam Speaker, it seems to me that this discussion has taken enough of the valuable time of the House and that we should get back to the business of the House and deal with the petitions as quickly as possible, because that, apparently, is what the opposition parties want to do: They want to use up as much time of the House as possible. We should get back to the real business, to deal with legislation that we want to deal with, and so I suggest that we get back to the normal business.

The Acting Speaker: A point of order has been raised by the member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan). I have dealt with that point of order. With regard to the point of order that was raised by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), I would remind all members not to

impute motives upon what is said by certain members in this House. I would suggest from what I have heard today that the information should be on the record and that if there are any further comments anyone wishes to make, perhaps we can wait until another time and proceed with respect to the member for Sudbury East with her reading of the petition.

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Mr. Farnan: The member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) imputed that the purpose of reading the petitions was to waste the time of this House. It is clear that the purpose of the petitions is to allow the voice of the people of Ontario to be heard. If there is a certain repetition in the petitions—

The Acting Speaker: Order. As I have indicated, I would like to say that no member should impute motives upon any other member of the House.

Mr. Farnan: May the member for Waterloo North please withdraw his remarks—

The Acting Speaker: Order. I have indicated that no member should impute something wrong upon a statement made by a member of the House. I did not read that from the statement made by the member for Waterloo North.

Mr. Breagh: I am just going to bring to your attention, Madam Speaker, standing order 19(d) covering the rules of debate in here. There have been two now, and this is a little unfortunate, because I began by seeking simply a clarification on the remarks made by the member for Brampton South. It is unfortunate that the member for Waterloo North chose to stick his nose into the business as well, but I would remind you that it is fairly clear under standing order 19(d)(8) that one cannot make allegations against another member and, under 9, that one cannot impute false or unavowed motives to another member.

It is fairly clear to me that that has happened here this afternoon. I am quite prepared to let the matter drop for now, but I would like you, Madam Speaker, to take under consideration that this is getting a little more serious than we care to get. All members are doing is exercising their parliamentary obligations. If the government does not like that, that is too bad.

The Acting Speaker: With respect to the member's understanding of that particular statement made by the member for Brampton South, I did not take that from it, but I will review the Hansard and will come back to you with respect to that.

Miss Martel: Since I have been interrupted by the back bench, which has finally decided to wake up, I am going to begin again, because I am sure most members in the House lost the point of the—

The Acting Speaker: Order. Would you please continue where you left off?

Miss Martel: I am getting right there, Madam Speaker. I have a petition signed:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

The Acting Speaker: Order. Will you please continue where you left off in your reading? Do not begin again.

Miss Martel: On a point of information, Madam Speaker: I cannot remember where I left off, because that was such a long time ago. So, begging your pardon, I would certainly like to begin again from the beginning, and I ask for a ruling on that.

Mr. Philip: Go ahead, read it.

Miss Martel: Go again?

The petition states as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family, which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This is signed by 12 members of the riding of Sudbury East, and I have endorsed my signature on this as well.

Mr. McLean: I have my final petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Ontario's municipalities are opposed to the Peterson local option for Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of 63 people across this province who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a petition on Sunday shopping that I would like to present, now that both the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) and the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) are in the House.

The signatures are from a number of people, one of whom is Dr. Ted Bounsall, past member for Windsor-Sandwich in the Legislature of Ontario, a great colleague of ours.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

Mr. Ballinger: You should add a little colour.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I appreciate that.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and"—

Interjections.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: "Agreed" was heard from across the way.

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

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"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working

people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have affixed my signature to this petition.

Mrs. Cunningham: I have a number of petitions I would like to present at this point in time. They are addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the majority of Ontarians want family time together and not wide-open Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of 55 persons from London who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I have put my signature to this and I will turn that over to the House.

I have another one:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the all-party committee of the Legislature on retail store hours unanimously recommended a common pause day so that families can get together; and

"Whereas the Solicitor General, Joan Smith, signed that committee report but now has failed to live by its recommendations, we request that consideration be given to the views of 56 persons from London who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I have signed my name to this and I will turn that over for the records.

I have one last group of petitions here:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Liberal government of David Peterson does not support the principle of a common pause day in Ontario, we request that consideration be given to the views of 50 persons from London who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We do not need nor want Sunday shopping. Put yourself in the position of the province's retail employees who will have to spend Sundays at work instead of with their families."

I have signed my name to these as well and I will turn them over for the record.

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition from the Fabric Solution fabric shop at 218 Locke Street South in Hamilton. This is signed by members of the staff.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in

Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: I have a petition from our North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces in Europe. Actually, that is not factual. I do have a petition, however:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17"—count them—"unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

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"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are opposed to open Sunday shopping and want to retain a common pause day in Ontario."

It is signed by 50 residents of Ontario.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as

follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This is signed by two people in the riding of Essex-Kent.

Ms. Bryden: Madam Speaker, I am presenting to you petitions from residents of Metropolitan Toronto who wish to state their opposition to Sunday shopping. They address their petitions to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. They state:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business

Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This petition is signed by five residents of Metropolitan Toronto, including myself, and I support the petition.

Mr. Swart: I realize that I may be a little out of form presenting petitions on this subject, but somehow or other, we will accomplish it. I want to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that today I have my glasses so it should not take as long as last time.

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Interjections.

Mr. Swart: This is addressed—I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if you would stop the interjections—

Interjections.

Mr. Swart: —by my own members.

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting for the petition.

Mr. Swart: “To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

“Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government’s intention to repeal—”

The members are interrupting again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Swart: “—the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don’t want it; and

“Whereas the Legislature’s select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: ‘The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario’; and

“Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee’s report was as follows: ‘The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government’; and

“Whereas the report also said, ‘The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario’; and

“Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

“Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government’s intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

“Whereas the government’s stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

“We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario.”

That is signed by Sue Wyers of Hanmer, Ontario.

Mr. Ballinger: Hey Mel, you get the big zero from us.

Mr. Callahan: For technical merit, though, you’ve got a 10.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Hamilton East.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I wanted desperately to get this one on the record, because it is the remaining three ladies from the Hamilton Mountain bowling league who did not sign the previous petition—just to give them credit, Emily Goodall, Bette Coruzzi and Shirley Sartor:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

“Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government’s intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don’t want it; and

“Whereas the Legislature’s select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: ‘The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario’; and

“Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee’s report was as follows: ‘The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government’; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and"—

You will note I am reading it carefully so there is nothing added to the petition, Madam Chairman, so there can be no critique from the member for Brampton South.

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less

fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

As I say, it is signed by the three women from the Hamilton Mountain ladies' bowling league and I am pleased to add my signature to this petition and forward it to the Clerk of the House.

Mr. Speaker: I am just wondering, it being so close to six of the clock, I understand the member has a petition and in case he finds it difficult to read, he might want to wait until tomorrow. It being now six of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock tomorrow afternoon.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

GOVERNMENT LAND

70. Mr. Cousens: Would the Minister of Government Services provide a detailed listing of all vacant provincially-owned lands under each ministry; specifically, the location of the property, the lot size and acreage and, if available, proposed plans for the use of each site? [Tabled December 14, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Patten: Vacant lands are considered to be those vacant patented lands which

are being held that are not required for provincial program purposes. Lands which have not been declared surplus by a ministry are not included. A list of vacant lands at least one half-acre in size, with the acreage and proposed plans, is attached. Once a ministry has notified the Ministry of Government Services that a property is surplus, the responsibility for determining the appropriate disposition for the property rests with the Ministry of Government Services rather than each ministry.

**Ministry of Government Services
vacant lands no longer required for program use**

Location	Acreage	Proposed plans
Atikokan*	1335.081	In sales program
Atikokan*	4.695	Sale for housing
Baysville, Lake of Bays township	20.000	In sales program
Brantford (city)	520.887	Future development§
Brantford (township)	87.968	Future development§
Burwash	9500.000	In sales program
Cambridge	861.638	Industrial sale
Cambridge	1389.517	Agricultural sales program under way
Carlsbad Springs	3559.723	Sales program under way (agricultural and residential)
Cornwall	8.896	Sale for housing†
Ear Falls	16.556	In sales program
Ear Falls	21.745	Sale for housing†
Fauquier	150.000	Municipal sale
Fenelon Falls	2.000	Municipal sale
Geraldton	21.745	Sale for housing†
Geraldton	1.000	In sales program
Glackmeyer township	2.750	In sales program
Graham Lake	9.000	In sales program
Grimsby	2.000	Municipal sale
Guelph	47.937	Proposed housing development‡
Hamilton*	12.108	Future development§
Huntsville	2.000	Municipal sale
Kitchener	117.867	Proposed housing development‡
Levant/Dalhousie township	5.000	In sales program
Long Sault	9.300	In sales program
Lundy	160.000	In sales program
Malvern* (Scarborough)	112.925	Proposed housing development‡
Markham	5939.790	Future development§
Milton	1299.746	Agricultural sales program under way
Nakina	543.650	Municipal sale (airport)
Nipigon	29.000	In sales program
Oakville	97.852	Proposed housing development‡
Oakville	1167.375	Future development§
Opasatika	2.500	In sales program
Ottawa	48.000	In sales program
Parry Sound	2.000	Municipal sale

Location	Acreage	Proposed plans
Peterborough	161.603	Future development§
Peterborough*	23.227	Proposed housing development
Pickering	5577.541	Agricultural—possible future development
Pittsburg	39.000	Sale to federal government
Prescott	9.390	Sale for housing†
Richards	6.000	Municipal sale
Rolph	4.300	Municipal sale
Seaton	6750.525	Future development§
South Cayuga	9073.265	Agricultural sales program under way
Stoney Creek (Heritage Green)	61.528	Proposed housing development‡
Stoney Creek (Heritage Green)	1241.430	Future development§
Sudbury (Valley East)	348.411	In sales program
Thunder Bay	10.500	Municipal sale
Townsend	2017.324	Future development§
Townsend	4588.647	Future development§
Townsend	25.698	Proposed housing development‡
Townsend/Nanticoke	3601.483	Agricultural sales program under way
Whitby	1197.447	Agricultural sales program under way
Whitby	284.659	Future development§
Windsor	165.557	Proposed housing development‡

*Lands held in partnership with federal government.

†Existing lots, currently zoned for housing.

‡Plan of subdivision currently under circulation

§Time-frame in excess of five years.

Lands less than one half-acre are not included in this listing.

Vacant properties being reviewed for their potential to support housing-first initiative or other housing development		Location	Acreage
Location	Acreage	Newcastle	1.850
		North Bay	1.650
Acreage	Acreage	North York (Falstaff/Keele)	24.092
		North-East Scarborough	1577.981
Ancaster	11.500	Oakville (QEW/3rd Line)	24.710
Aurora Pineridge	74.130	Orillia (Huron regional centre)	558.446
Bowmanville	97.605	Parry Sound	2.552
Centralia	400.000	Pictou (Prince Edward Heights)	179.889
Cobourg	70.000	Richmond Hill	8.200
Etobicoke	10.000	Saltfleet township	2.686
Etobicoke (Lakeshore Psych., Etobicoke)	63.529	Sault Ste Marie	600.453
Kingston township	12.300	Scarborough	9.500
Kitchener	3.640	Scarborough	10.000
Kitchener	2.369	Sidney township	32.600
Kitchener	1.362	Thunder Bay (area)	8.000
Kitchener	1.863	Toronto	11.540
Louth (St. Catharines)	5.459	Toronto (east/west of Bay)	8.010
Markham (Bayview/Highway 7)	8.105	Vaughan (Dufferin/Highway 7)	5.930
Markham (Highway 48/Highway 407)	10.872	Windsor*	76.601
Mississauga	3.640		
Mississauga	11.072		
Mississauga (Highway 403/ Highway 10)	18.780		
Mississauga (QEW/Cawthra)	10.947		

*Lands held in partnership with federal government.

Land parcels less than one half-acre are not included in this listing.

CHURCH PROPERTY

74. Mr. Philip: Would the Minister of Housing consider the request from Metro council to the province of Ontario that the Assessment Act be amended to exempt from taxation, property rented to churches where the church is liable for property taxes, under the terms of a lease and which had the church owned the property it would have received an exemption under the act? Would the minister inform the House when legislation might be introduced to correct the problem and does the minister agree that there is discrimination under the present Assessment Act against those churches that rent property as compared to those that own property? Would the minister also give a firm commitment that legislation will be introduced and if so, when will this legislation be introduced? [Tabled December 17, 1987]

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: The Metropolitan executive committee has requested that the Assessment Act be amended to extend the present exemption granted to churches to those churches occupying leased space as well.

The particular provision to exempt only those churches that own their own property and not those that are occupying leased space has been in the Assessment Act for many years. Presumably, the argument for governmental support of places of worship by local tax exemption was based on the indirect benefits they confer upon society generally.

However, to extend the exemption to those places of worship that are occupying property that they or another place of worship does not own is extending the basic principle for the exemption to owners who are not conferring the same benefits to society. As well, there is no guarantee that an owner of a property who receives a tax exemption will pass the tax saving on to the tenant in the form of a reduced cost of occupation.

The extension of the tax exemption to property used, but not owned, by churches was refuted by the Ontario Committee on Taxation. Specifically, the report stated that "we think that such church properties should continue to be taxable in full, but that churches should qualify...for the municipal grants that we later recommend should be paid instead of granting exemptions from local taxes."

I believe that the recommendation of the Smith report quoted above is the preferred course of action.

This option preserves local autonomy and is more desirable than a provincially imposed

property tax exemption. Furthermore, the fact that the exemption would be granted by an annual municipal bylaw increases the accountability of the organization benefitting from the tax exemption.

I trust that I have clarified the position of the Ministry of Revenue with respect to the recommendation of Metropolitan Toronto council.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION

95. Mr. Brandt: Would the Minister of Skills Development provide the following information with respect to the publication Skills Ontario-Training: We Can All Profit from It: (1) number of copies printed; (2) total cost of booklets; (3) cost per copy; (4) distribution costs; (5) target audience for publication? [Tabled February 10, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Curling: (1) Number of copies printed: 10,000; (2) total cost: \$41,500; (3) cost per copy: \$4.15; (4) distribution costs: \$7,292; (5) target audience was agencies and clients of the ministry. This includes: labour leaders; secondary, post-secondary educators and administrators; leaders of industry and business; media; heads of chambers of commerce; private sector trainers, and trade and employer association heads.

HOURS OF WORK

99. Mr. Rae: Would the Minister of Labour provide, for the year 1987, what special permits for hours of work were issued to public teaching hospitals in Ontario under the Employment Standards Act? Please specify. Has the ministry any estimate of average time worked by residents, interns and nurses in Ontario's teaching hospitals? [Tabled April 5, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The employment standards branch issued no special hours-of-work permits to public teaching hospitals during 1987.

The ministry does not have any information on hours worked by residents, interns and nurses employed in teaching hospitals.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

NATUROPATHY

Sessional paper P-1, re naturopathy.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Under the new legislation which is being developed to govern the health professions, naturopaths will be allowed to provide care to the people of Ontario as unregulated practitioners. As is now the case, naturopaths will not be able to use certain modalities of treatment such as surgery or prescribing drugs licensed to other practitioners.

In the future, naturopaths will have opportunities to have their regulatory position re-evaluated to determine if they meet the criteria. They continue to make submissions to the Health Professions Legislation Review. The review is currently evaluating these new submissions.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Sessional paper P-8, re free trade agreement.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The Government of Ontario appreciates the favourable response contained in this petition to its position with respect to the proposed Canada-US free trade agreement.

Premier Peterson had earlier announced that Ontario would not support a free trade deal which did not meet certain conditions necessary to maintain economic and social stability and protect Canada's national sovereignty. The government believes that the major objectives as outlined by both the Ontario and the Canadian governments have not been met by the free trade

agreement and the costs associated with reaching the proposed trade agreement are unacceptable.

Opposition to the free trade agreement by the people of Ontario, as represented by this petition, should be allowed to be expressed through a general election.

RECREATION TRAIL

Sessional paper P-11, re Marmora subdivision being developed as a recreational trail.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The role of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has historically been to assist municipalities and community organizations who may wish to assume direct responsibility for recreation/fitness trails, rather than direct provincial involvement in property acquisition and management. To this end my ministry has already provided a \$30,000 planning grant to the county of Hastings towards a feasibility study of the outdoor recreation potential of the Marmora Lake St. Peter abandoned rail right of way.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- | | |
|---|--|
| Adams, Peter (Peterborough L) | Fontaine, Hon. René , Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L) |
| Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP) | Fulton, Hon. Ed , Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L) |
| Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L) | Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L) |
| Beer, Charles (York North L) | Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C. , Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L) |
| Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L) | Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP) |
| Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L) | Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L) |
| Bradley, Hon. James J. , Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L) | Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP) |
| Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC) | Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC) |
| Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP) | Hart, Christine E. (York East L) |
| Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L) | Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L) |
| Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP) | Hošek, Hon. Chaviva , Minister of Housing (Oakwood L) |
| Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L) | Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC) |
| Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L) | Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC) |
| Caplan, Hon. Elinor , Minister of Health (Oriole L) | Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP) |
| Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L) | Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L) |
| Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP) | Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G. , Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L) |
| Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L) | Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L) |
| Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L) | Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L) |
| Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L) | Kwinter, Hon. Monte , Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L) |
| Conway, Hon. Sean G. , Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L) | Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP) |
| Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L) | LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L) |
| Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP) | Leone, Laureano (Downsview L) |
| Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L) | Lipsett, Ron (Grey L) |
| Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC) | Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L) |
| Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC) | MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L) |
| Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC) | Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP) |
| Curling, Hon. Alvin , Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L) | Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L) |
| Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L) | Mancini, Hon. Remo , Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L) |
| Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L) | Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC) |
| Eakins, Hon. John F. , Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L) | Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP) |
| Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A. , Speaker (Perth L) | Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L) |
| Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L) | McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC) |
| Elston, Hon. Murray J. , Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L) | McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L) |
| Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L) | McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L) |
| Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC) | McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L) |
| Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP) | McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC) |
| Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L) | McLeod, Hon. Lyn , Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L) |
| Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L) | Miclash, Frank (Kenora L) |
| Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L) | Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L) |
| Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L) | |

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)

Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)

Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)

Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)

Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)

Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)

Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)

Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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No. 48

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament
Tuesday, April 19, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 19, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

HOUSING ON GOVERNMENT LAND

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, yesterday you assisted us with a ruling on statements outside the Legislature, but it still remains true that on April 11 the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert) announced in advance of the minister's statements in the Legislature that a piece of land in his riding would be used not for affordable housing but for a commercial development mix. Imagine our surprise then to find the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) announcing on April 13 that, in fact, that particular parcel of land was going to be part of a brand new Housing First policy in Ontario.

As a matter of fact, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten) got a little more specific than that. He said in Scarborough a nine-acre site at Ellesmere Avenue and McCowan Road was part of the new joint venture for Housing First for affordable housing in Scarborough. Imagine my surprise then this morning when I read in the official paper of record, the *Toronto Star*, a statement from the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere. He said 3.6 hectares, nine acres of land at Ellesmere Avenue and McCowan Road, were inadvertently lumped in with several other sites to be sold by the province for future affordable housing.

"There are no plans for government sponsored affordable housing anywhere in Scarborough," Faubert said." Perhaps like Jack Abbott on *The Young and the Restless*, he is revealing truths that he should not be revealing in this House.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs. Cunningham: Yesterday, in response to a suggestion from our House leader that the House sit on Sundays in May so that members of this assembly can see for themselves just what type of disruptions it causes in our lives, as it would in the lives of our constituents, the government House leader went on at great length

that such an experiment is not necessary as he already works on Sundays.

The government House leader, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), missed the point. He can choose to work on Sunday or he can choose not to work on Sunday at his own leisure, unlike retail workers, who are forced to work. As well, if this House sat on Sundays—mandatory, mind you; everyone must be present—then the government House leader could see for himself that it would not just be the members who would be affected, but Legislative Assembly staff as well who would also have their Sundays and family lives disrupted.

However, as the government House leader so proudly boasted yesterday that he works on Sunday, I suggest all his constituents and all the people of this province who oppose the government's policy call him this Sunday—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member's time has expired.

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SUDBURY

Mr. Campbell: I have the pleasure of informing the members of the House that the Dnipro Choir, the Vselka Dancers and the Black Sea Kosaks of the Ukrainian National Federation of Sudbury will perform this July at Expo 88 in Brisbane, Australia.

These superbly talented Sudburians are experienced world performers. The Dnipro Choir has impressed audiences in Ottawa, Expo 86 in Vancouver, the United States, Argentina and Venezuela with its traditional folk songs and light operettas.

All of the members of the Vselka Dancers are choir members. This group is widely known for an energetic and intense stage presence.

Exciting aerobic steps and eight-part harmony are the trademarks of the innovative Black Sea Kosaks, who have dazzled audiences wherever they have performed.

It is a signal honour bestowed on the Ukrainian National Federation that this performing ensemble is one of only six Canadian groups representing North America at Expo 88.

The Sudburians will be exceptional ambassadors representing all Canadians with pride, skill and charm.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: We have done some examination of the Osborne report that was tabled yesterday. It confirms that it was not only a useless contribution to the auto insurance debate, but it is extremely inaccurate and misleading. In fact, the research document on which the rejection of public auto insurance was made is a piece of trash. Basic figures and facts which are readily available to anyone are wrong or omitted. Pages 118 and 119 of volume 2 say compulsory, no-fault automobile insurance benefits are similar between Manitoba and Ontario and then they provide comparative figures. I have them here.

It says that medical expenses are \$20,000 maximum in Manitoba and \$25,000 in Ontario. In fact, anyone who looks at any documents knows it is \$100,000 in Manitoba. They say funeral expenses are \$1,500 in Manitoba and \$1,000 here. In fact, they are \$2,500 in Manitoba.

They say loss of income in Manitoba is \$150 per week or 70 per cent of gross wages. The fact is that it is a \$300 maximum. For Ontario, they say 80 per cent of gross wages, period, nothing else. Of course, everybody here knows the maximum is \$140, but they forgot to mention that.

This indicates the worth of that Osborne report and we know what should be done with it.

FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Mrs. Marland: I would like to give the House a list of unfulfilled Liberal promises and commitments.

During the 1987 election campaign, the Liberals made a number of commitments for environmental programs. To date, most of these commitments have been unfulfilled.

With summer rapidly approaching, we look once again to water quality in Lake Ontario. The Liberals promised to double spending to clean up beaches. They promised \$150 million; \$75 million in new money over five years.

They promised to double spending on the municipal recycling support program to \$40 million; \$20 million in new money over five years.

Liberals promised to double spending on the security fund to \$20 million annually; \$10 million in new money.

They promised a \$150-million environmental defence loan fund. In addition, the minister should act immediately on the hollow promise

made in 1985 to establish a \$30-million perpetual care fund based on the US Superfund.

To meet all the 1987 Liberal environmental campaign promises, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) will have to give the green light to increase the Ministry of the Environment's budget by \$184 million this year, a 50 per cent increase in the ministry budget.

I am anxiously awaiting to see the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) open the doors of the great Loomis truck across the street at 7 Queen's Park Crescent and deliver, in an environmentally safe manner, the money his Premier has committed to the environment—commitments this government has ignored.

1340

JOHN RICHMOND

Mr. Ballinger: I would like to take this opportunity publicly to recognize a special guest I have sitting in the members' east gallery. My riding of Durham-York is very fortunate to have John Richmond, a well-known and respected Canadian artist living in the gentle hills of Uxbridge township.

John Richmond was born in Toronto and attended public school there. He was chosen one of 12 students to serve as honorary director of the Canadian National Exhibition in grade 8 when he was only 11. At the Ontario College of Art, John won the Eaton scholarship in his third year and visited England where he studied with Eric Kennington, whose portraits in *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom* and *Wartime Heroes* in *Life* magazine won him fame.

While still an undergraduate, John's paintings were accepted for exhibition with the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour. Throughout the 1970s readers of *Toronto Calendar* magazine looked at John's amusing and informative maps which illustrated his column "Discover Ontario."

During the 1980s, John's work has appeared in *City and Country Home*, on CKVR-TV, at Latham gallery in Stouffville, at Robert McLaughlin gallery in Durham College in Oshawa, the Cobourg Art Gallery, the Grimsby Public Art Gallery and Knob Hill Farms in Oshawa.

His most recent mural is at the Uxbridge Public Library. He is now painting a series of large landscapes which are on loan in both my Queen's Park office and my constituency office.

Throughout the past 25 years, John has also become known as an innovative Canadian humorist and cartoonist. I am honoured that I

have had John Richmond create all of the graphics for my first householder calendar.

OSHAWA KIWANIS HOCKEY CLUB

Mr. Breagh: It is that time again when Oshawa hockey teams are representing Ontario at the Air Canada Cup tournament this week in Thunder Bay. I know all members want to join me in congratulating the Oshawa Kiwanis midget hockey club and coach Gil Hughes, who are in Thunder Bay competing at this moment and are going to win it for Ontario, no questions asked.

Mr. Sterling: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: As the father of a son who played against the Oshawa team, I wish them well.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I request unanimous consent of the House to make a statement about a death.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

DAVID PUGSLEY

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: With great regret, I advise members of the House of the death of David Pugsley in an automobile accident in the Middle East. Mr. Pugsley worked for the Ontario International Corp., one of the agencies of my ministry.

Mr. Pugsley served as a senior civil servant for eight years following a 25-year tenure in both the private sector and the colleges of applied arts and technology. He joined the civil service in 1980 as vice-president of the Ontario Educational Services Corp., an agency established by the Ministry of Education to promote the export of Ontario's education resources.

In 1984 he became a member of Ontario International when the two agencies were merged. His responsibilities in Ontario International included representing the provincial government in the Middle East, where he won many friends for Ontario in his untiring efforts to promote the province and its resources in that highly competitive marketplace.

At the time of his death he was working on secondment to a major Canadian consulting firm, Educansult Ltd., on a project to develop a community college system in the United Arab Emirates. His secondment was a result of a request for his expertise by Educansult to work on the establishment of the new system which he had helped negotiate as an officer of Ontario International.

Mr. Pugsley served the province with great distinction. He contributed much to the increasing awareness of Ontario and of Canada in the

Middle East. The province has lost a fine, loyal and dedicated civil servant.

On behalf of the House, I would like to extend to his family our profound sympathy.

Mr. Brandt: On the same matter, I would like to join with the minister and the government of Ontario in extending sympathy to the family of David Pugsley. I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Pugsley at the time that I served in the same capacity as the now minister. There is no question that he was a very dedicated and committed civil servant of this province and worked very hard to extend the interests of the province into various parts of the world, more particularly into the Middle East where his unfortunate death occurred as a result of that car accident.

The efforts of Mr. Pugsley were an extension, I might add, of some of the initiatives that were taken by Dr. Bette Stephenson when she served as Minister of Education relative to initiatives in education, particularly in the Middle East. The follow-up to that was some of the efforts put forward by Mr. Pugsley. I want to share the minister's sentiments in offering my sympathies to the family, friends and working colleagues of David Pugsley as well.

Mr. B. Rae: Our hearts go out to the Pugsley family. I know all of us in this House will share in that loss and sense of sadness which comes from his accident in the Middle East. We very much appreciate the work he did on behalf of Ontario. All of us, I am sure, will want to join together in sending our very best wishes to Mr. Pugsley's family.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: If I might, it may be a little bit unusual for a second statement to be made from this side of the House on the untimely death of David Pugsley, but I do want to rise and offer my condolences as well.

It may be that I knew David Pugsley better than anyone on this side of the House. About a year and a half ago, the former Minister of Education, Dr. Bette Stephenson, and I led a government mission to the Middle East, which had been arranged by David Pugsley in his capacity within the Ontario International Corp. I came to know him as an incredibly dedicated civil servant, a man with tremendous energy and a man who was committed to the idea that Ontario could be furthered around the world in an educational context. We are all saddened by his passing. His wife, Paddy, is also a tremendous woman whom I know. I want to send out my personal condolences and the condolences of the government to her and all his good friends within

the government and around the province and indeed throughout Canada.

Mr. Speaker: As is the usual custom, when Hansard is officially printed, I will make certain that a copy goes to the Pugsley family so that your words of sympathy are received by them.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: On some occasions, we have former members visiting us, and today we have the former member for Carleton, Robert Mitchell, in the lower west gallery. You might like to welcome him.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

CONSTRUCTION FOR TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT

CONSTRUCTION DE FACILITÉS POUR LE SOMMET ÉCONOMIQUE DE TORONTO

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: As honourable members know, the political leaders of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and the United States are holding their annual economic summit meeting in Toronto in June. In preparation for that meeting, construction work, primarily to ensure the security of these national leaders, is to be undertaken at the Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre and certain adjacent areas just before the meeting.

This work is what is known under the Labour Relations Act as ICI construction. The ICI stands for industrial, commercial and institutional. ICI construction involves such buildings as factories, offices and hospitals. As many members will know, there are 25 separate ICI contracts between contractors and trade unions in Ontario.

The Labour Relations Act requires that these contracts be negotiated every two years. Those that are currently in force are due to expire on April 30. These contracts are negotiated for the province as a whole and apply province-wide. In other words, the contracts that cover ICI carpentry or ICI plumbing in Thunder Bay are the same ones that cover ICI work in Hamilton, Ottawa or any other part of the province.

Collective bargaining is going on in all trades. My ministry's industrial relations specialists are working with the parties in conjunction with those collective bargaining negotiations. It is my hope and expectation that the process will be concluded successfully.

Having said that, until all the new ICI contract negotiations are completed, there exists a possibility of work stoppages on ICI sites once the

current agreements expire on April 30. In that context, later today I will be presenting for first reading a bill to provide that if there are work stoppages in the ICI sector, the work at the convention-centre site related specifically to the economic summit will be able to continue.

1350

Plus tard aujourd'hui, je présenterai, en première lecture, un projet de loi garantissant qu'en cas de débrayage dans le secteur industriel, commercial et institutionnel, les travaux effectués au Centre des congrès pour le sommet économique ne seront pas interrompus.

Ministry officials have been engaged in extensive consultations with employers' associations and trade unions on the importance of the work for the Toronto economic summit being done on time. The bill provides that work at the summit site will be done by each trade under the terms of its current ICI contract if a new agreement is not ratified before the work is scheduled to begin.

The bill will take effect upon proclamation and will lapse on June 30. It will apply only to the convention centre complex, including L'Hotel, the Canadian National office tower and the parking lot comprising a whole block bounded by Front, Wellington, John and Simcoe Streets.

Today's bill meets a number of objectives. First, it permits that the work necessary for Toronto to host the economic summit will go ahead; second, it ensures that the wages, fringe benefits and working conditions of employees will be continued; and, third, it provides that any new agreements negotiated by the trade unions will apply as soon as they are ratified.

At the same time, this legislation will not in any way impact on the scheduled collective bargaining process in the ICI sector and what I hope will be a successful conclusion of those negotiations.

In conclusion, I want to say that the legislation I am proposing today is technical and facilitative of work that is necessary in order to permit the economic summit to go ahead as planned.

NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Mental health disabilities and alcohol and drug abuse are among the most destructive problems facing our society. We know that one person in eight will suffer from substance abuse or mental illness at some point in their lives, but almost all of us have felt the effects of mental illness and substance abuse because they affect not only the individual, but also family, friends and co-workers.

Since 1985, this government has initiated a number of programs to address the needs of those suffering from these diseases. Special attention has been directed to northern Ontario. The huge expanse, the great distance between communities and the isolation of very small communities present us with challenges we do not face in planning programs for southern Ontario.

Last August, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) announced that an additional \$7.3 million in annual operating funds would be allocated for community-based mental health and alcohol and drug dependency programs for this region. Last February, I announced in Thunder Bay that \$900,000 of this amount had been approved for 31 existing community-based programs in northern Ontario.

Today, I am pleased to announce that a further \$5.4 million of this amount has been approved for another 15 mental health and 14 alcohol and drug programs to cover every region of northern Ontario: five in Kenora-Rainy River, four in Manitoulin-Sudbury, four in Cochrane, one in Timiskaming, four in Algoma, five in Nipissing and four in Thunder Bay. Included in the amount are two programs for Muskoka-Parry Sound as well.

Nineteen of these programs, which will offer services such as individual, family and group counselling, are brand-new; 10 are expansions of existing programs. They will provide top-quality service to all sectors of northern society: the native and non-native population and the young and the elderly. Many of the programs will be fully bilingual.

Today's announcement brings government spending for northern mental health and alcohol and drug abuse programs from \$14.3 million a year to about \$20 million a year. The remaining funds committed by the Premier will be used for future program enhancement this year.

This government will continue to demonstrate its commitment to maintaining, promoting and restoring good mental health and physical health to all the people of northern Ontario. This program expansion represents a significant step towards our overall goal: a comprehensive network of mental health and alcohol and drug dependency programs to make quality health available to all in the north.

ONTARIO NEW HOME WARRANTY PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Today I am pleased to announce to the House some enhancements to the Ontario New Home Warranty Program which

will further protect new home purchasers in the province. These measures have been developed by the new home warranty program, and I believe these improvements will add strength to our warranty coverage.

Before I outline the details, I want to draw members' attention to the Speaker's gallery and to introduce the vice-chairman of the board of the Ontario New Home Warranty Program, Peter Burns. I want to note that the chairman, Ernie Assaly, is unable to be here today because of illness.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, there have been many problems in the home construction industry in the past few years, relating to such critical areas as delayed closings, substitutions, poor-quality workmanship, after-sales service and incomplete construction.

Program officials have consulted with representatives from government, the Toronto and Ontario home builders' associations and the Ontario arm of the Consumers' Association of Canada in order to develop measures that address these concerns without driving up the already high cost of housing.

These regulations go into effect at the end of June.

On delayed closings, builders are given two opportunities to extend the closing date. In the first instance, consumers must be given 65 days' notice prior to the original closing date. A further 15-day extension may be granted, provided the purchaser is notified at least 35 days in advance of the second closing date. Builders who do not give such notice will be liable for compensation of up to \$5,000. This will include expenses for moving, storage and living expenses. Delays caused by a strike or uncontrollable natural disaster will be exempted.

Regarding substitutions, purchasers will be able to cancel their contract if there are major changes, such as a different exterior finish, plan or elevation than that originally contracted for. For less critical changes, such as carpets or kitchen cabinets, which the purchaser selects in the agreement of purchase and sale, buyers will be given time to consider alternatives.

If the builder does not comply with the consumer's wishes, the consumer can make a claim or lodge a complaint with the warranty plan.

For minor substitutions on items which purchasers do not select, such as lighting fixtures, substitutions can be only of equal or better value.

Also of benefit is the fact that these changes will compel the builder to communicate with the

buyer. In the past, failure to do this has been a major source of many of the problems faced by builders and consumers alike.

Stronger consumer protection is now available for the other three problems I noted earlier: namely, poor-quality workmanship, after-sales service and incomplete construction.

Program staff are now giving a broader interpretation to quality-related terms in the warranty, such as "workmanlike manner" and "fit for habitation." As a result, consumers are more likely to get the quality they are paying for.

In addition, cash settlements are being offered to purchasers whose builders have not satisfactorily rectified these and other after-sales problems. As a result of earlier changes to warranty coverage, purchasers of incomplete houses are receiving payments of the greater of \$5,000 or two per cent of the value of the home. Consumers can thus arrange for the completion of their homes on their own.

These changes are intended to address persistent problems which have been underscored by the boom in new home construction. It is my belief that these measures are achievable and workable and should not limit the capacity of builders to obtain financing for future development or have the undesirable effect of adding to the cost of housing. At the same time, I want to assure the Legislature that my ministry will take whatever further steps may be necessary to provide consumers with a fair deal in the largest purchase that most of us will ever make.

In this connection, I will soon be receiving the report of the legislative review project, which could very well make some further recommendations to enhance the power of the registrar's office of the Ontario New Home Warranty Program.

These actions form part of this government's overall efforts to improve the quality of residential construction here in Ontario.

RESPONSES

CONSTRUCTION FOR TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Mr. Mackenzie: We welcome the statement of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) with regard to construction of facilities for the Toronto economic summit conference. As the minister knows, the original concern centred on something adjacent to the domed stadium, and that appears to be covered in the specific parameters of the site which is in the bill. With that, I think there will not be any problems with the workers involved.

1400

NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Reville: Responding to the statement by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) today in the Legislature, my colleagues in the northern caucus of the New Democratic Party will be pleased to some extent to hear announced the programs which they have been demanding of this government and the previous government for many years. During the Health estimates in 1986, I was startled to discover that in all of northern Ontario there were but 34 supported beds for people coming out of psychiatric facilities. That struck me as a shocking and appalling situation.

The government talks about meeting the unusual challenges of the north. Let me say that the government has not ever met this challenge anywhere in Ontario, let alone in the north. I am glad the north is finally getting some attention.

Until the government makes a commitment to comprehensive planned and delivered community mental health services, such as would be provided for under my Bill 50, the Community Mental Health Services Act, the delivery of services anywhere in this province will be subject to the political whim of various governments. That is no way to serve people.

ONTARIO NEW HOME WARRANTY PROGRAM

Mr. Breagh: I would like to respond to the minister's announcement on the Ontario New Home Warranty Program. Members who have in the past had to deal with the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada know that although there is often a good effort to try to correct problems in the building of a new home, there remain some fundamental flaws in the system which is used, not the least of which is the fact that no ministry of the government of Ontario is responsible directly for seeing that the deal is actually kept.

That is, in fact, pretty much an in-house activity, and we depend upon the builders' association, through HUDAC to implement that. That has been a major source of problems: that when something is wrong one cannot find an enforcement agency within the government. That seems to me to be a strange, but major, fault to it.

I think many of us welcome that at least the minister has acknowledged there is a problem. That is often a major step forward. But consumers who may well be first-time home buyers, who

go through the practical ramifications of getting rid of rental accommodation or perhaps selling the home they now live in and moving to a new home, will find that the only requirement in here is a basic requirement on the part of the builder to provide them with notice. I am not so sure that piece of paper is going to really provide them with adequate shelter. The minister will know that has been an ongoing difficulty, that when builders cannot close a deal on time, cannot provide the home, people are very often homeless for a short period of time.

I am pleased there are efforts made here to see that new homes are fit for habitation, but I would say that is probably a minimal standard at best, and there have been some rather serious problems with that. The basic structural problems with it are the ones which should have been addressed today. I would put them as succinctly as I can in this manner: there is a distinct absence of consumers setting this kind of legislation. I would recommend that as one of the next steps to take.

I think the sad realization that an offer to purchase, a sales agreement for a new home, continues to be a firm contract with some structure within the law only when the builder says so is a rankle that frustrates many young Ontario families and others who are purchasing new homes.

I am pleased the minister has acknowledged that there have been problems there. I urge him to take the next logical step, which is to actually give consumers some protection in Ontario law when they buy a house.

NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Eves: I rise to respond to the statement by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) in the House this afternoon. I must congratulate the minister for delivering much-needed community-based mental health programs in northern Ontario. They are certainly needed and welcomed. We wait to hear the particulars with respect to such programs.

On a personal note, I might add that I presume this means Parry Sound is in northern Ontario for the purposes of the Ministry of Health. That will be welcome news indeed to many of my constituents. However, I might remind the minister and members of the Legislature, as well as the people of Ontario, that the minister's predecessor in 1985 cut back the number of psychiatric beds in northern Ontario.

He cut back the level of funding for those psychiatric beds from 100 per cent to two thirds

and he also cut back commitments with respect to providing these much needed community-based mental health clinics. For example, one Dr. Covington of the Timmins area has left Ontario because of the renegeing on the commitment to Dr. Covington to provide those much-needed mental health community-based clinics.

We would also like to remind the minister about the mental health study some two years ago which recommended the redevelopment of the North Bay Psychiatric Hospital, among others. We are waiting for a return to that commitment as well.

CONSTRUCTION FOR TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Mr. Harris: We support the thrust of the initiative that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) has talked about today, and, providing the bill is somewhat sensible, we will support the bill. We understand the problem that may exist with the economic summit and we are supportive of Ontario doing everything it can to help the showcase.

But we sometimes wonder where his priorities are. There are a number of other problems around this province that the Minister of Labour has not seen fit to put the emphasis and priority on. We understand this one. The federal government told him he had to do it, so he did something. Two years before, the New Democratic Party told the Premier (Mr. Peterson) he had to do something, so he did something.

What we are seeing now is very little initiative on the part of the minister on his own. Let me give him one example: the Wheel-Trans work-to-rule situation. It strikes me that does not seem to be a priority with this government. If he put one tenth of the effort into that, perhaps handicapped people would not have to wait three hours. Now they have to be at a location three hours in advance. If they have a doctor's appointment at three, they have to call Wheel-Trans at, say 11:30, and sit there and wait until 2:30. Three hours' notice is required.

I would like to suggest to the Minister of Labour that there are a lot of other priorities around this province that he might start to want to put his head to.

ONTARIO NEW HOME WARRANTY PROGRAM

Mr. Cousens: I would like to rise and acknowledge the presence of Mr. Burns and hope that Mr. Assaly improves in health very quickly. I recognize that, under Ed Locke and his

predecessors and the people at the Ontario New Home Warranty Program, there has been a great deal of support for the industry and for the buyers in Ontario through the Ontario New Home Warranty Program.

I am just surprised that this portfolio continues, under the Ontario New Home Warranty Program, to report to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations when, in fact, the Ministry of Housing should be far more involved in this issue. It is a housing issue.

I would like the minister to know that I am still waiting for some kind of answer to the people in Scarborough. There are about 23 buyers who have had for three years and are still having trouble getting into their homes because the land was never registered in the first place. What the minister is suggesting now does not begin to solve many of those age-old questions.

The Ontario New Home Warranty Program is over 10 years old and it is time to revise the whole program. Maybe what the minister is beginning to recognize now is that the warranty program should take effect immediately when a person signs an offer. Now the minister is trying to come in and help the new home buyers from the time they sign that offer rather than when they take possession. Why does the minister not come in right at the beginning and offer some form of mediation and extra support for those new home buyers?

I do not see the solution here in what the minister is suggesting for delayed closings. How long are those delayed closings going to be? He does not suggest that. He does not suggest a real solution on what is going to happen with substitution of articles and things in a home. Why does the minister not begin to do something about the real problem? Ninety-five per cent or more are good builders. What about the bad builders? Can the minister not get rid of them in Ontario? If he did that, then he would be doing something to protect the buyers.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Yesterday, we had the announcement of the report of Judge Osborne's report on auto insurance in Ontario. Today, a major report was released by the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) on the collective bargaining problems that have existed in the college system, and yet there was no statement by the minister in the House today, which I think this report really warrants in that it does seem to point

the way to some solutions in that area. I am surprised that was not done.

Mr. Speaker: It did not sound like a point of order to me. It sounded as if the member possibly could ask a question on that matter.

1410

MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO QUESTION

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order under standing order 29(a): Yesterday in this House my colleague the member for Stormont, Dundas and—

Mr. Villeneuve: Glengarry.

Mr. Harris: Still the same?

Mr. Breaugh: My good friend.

Mr. Harris: My good friend the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry had a question of the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. R. F. Nixon). It was at the end of question period. The Treasurer, at that time, replied: "It is unfortunate that the question comes at a time when question period is just completed because it is an extremely important one. Perhaps I might suggest the honourable member place the question again...." He goes on about how long the answer is and says he has the information.

I bring this up now, at the end of ministerial statements, because the Treasurer implied yesterday that he did not have time to respond. I would like to suggest that was not the case. He was not cut off. The question was placed at the right time. He had plenty of time to respond.

He went on and said it was going to be a lengthy answer and he was surprised we had not brought it up. I expected that what he meant was he did not have any time during question period. Standing order 29(a) then says, "The minister may take an oral question as notice to be answered orally at a later sitting but where any reserved answer requires a lengthy statement," it "shall be given under 'Statements by the Ministry and Responses.'"

So I was a little surprised that he did not want to answer yesterday in question period, perhaps because it was too lengthy, and he did not make a statement today. I wonder, under 29(a), what vehicle we have to force the Treasurer to respond to a question that was properly put to him in the right manner and at the right time.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Nipissing makes a very interesting point. He or his colleague from Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry may pursue the matter very shortly.

ORAL QUESTIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. B. Rae: My question is to the Premier. The Premier, I am sure, will be aware of the statement that was issued on Friday by the interfaith committee of the Coalition Against Open Sunday Shopping.

Among other things, the interfaith committee said: "As you know, the coalition sought a meeting with the Premier to discuss his proposed legislation before it was introduced. We had hoped that a government 'without walls or barriers'"—a phrase that I know will be familiar to you, Mr. Speaker—"would at least consult with us to explore alternatives.

"However, requests for a meeting have been ignored.

"We are disappointed. We are angry. Premier Peterson has broken his election promise that he would retain a common pause day in Ontario."

My question for the Premier is this: why has he refused to meet with either the coalition or the interfaith committee, either before or after the announcement last Thursday? How does he respond to the statement of this group, which I am sure the Premier recognizes represents literally millions of citizens of this province when they say: "We are disappointed. We are angry"?

Mr. Pope: Ian would not allow it.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not have anything to add to other views that the government has expressed on this particular issue. I know my honourable friend does not want to get on with the debate and that is fine, but I can tell him that we have met with many, many people. I believe my staff has met with the committee, and I think we are quite comfortable with its views.

It does not happen to agree with the government. That happens from time to time, but our view is clear. We have consulted widely on the matter, and I think more and more thoughtful people who now understand the legislation, as opposed to some of the hysteria engendered by my friends opposite, are very comfortable with this democratic approach that the government is taking.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Leadership that is working.

Mr. B. Rae: Is the Premier saying that the Reverend Hudson Hilsden, Canon A. R. Cuyler, Canon Rooke, Dr. Suzanne Scorsone, Dr. Bonnie Greene, Reverend David Jones, Dr. Tryphonopoulos, Reverend David Pfrimmer, Reverend Lawrence Likness, Dr. Raymond Hodgson and Rabbi Joseph Kelman are hysteri-

cal when they ask him for a meeting? Is the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) suggesting that these individuals who are asking for a meeting are being—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: Why has the Premier refused to meet with a prestigious group of Ontarians representing literally millions of Ontarians, men and women of different faiths around this province? Why has he refused to meet with these people when they specifically asked for a meeting?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not suggesting at all that they are hysterical. I suggest that my honourable friend opposite is hysterical. If we could settle down to a normal debate on this situation, I think if my honourable friend had any kind of reasonable and open mind he would be persuaded that his fears are completely unfounded, and I think that my honourable friend will want to convey that.

I can tell him that the views of the group are well known. They do not know what the solutions are. They are prepared to sit down and craft legislation, and perhaps that is the way the member feels we should operate, but I believe that after extensive consultation in our party and with outsiders we have crafted a bill that is sensitive to the realities of a new Ontario.

Mr. B. Rae: The interfaith committee produced a document which is going to be read in churches and places of worship across the province. It has consistently asked for a meeting with the Premier of this province and it has been refused. I think that we are entitled to ask the Premier again, for a third time, why, in his canvassing of this issue, has he declined a meeting with religious leaders across this province who feel profoundly on this issue, on behalf of women, on behalf of those whom they have described as the most vulnerable and on behalf of the families of this province?

Before introducing legislation which they feel substantially changes the way this province is going to work, why would the Premier refuse even to meet with them and to explain his views and to listen to their views as he produces a policy that will bring the people—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to meet with anyone any time, as you know well. We get requests all the time. I am even happy meeting with the member. My honourable friend is accusing me of being undemocratic. If there is

anyone who is undemocratic, it is my friend opposite who will not let this proceed.

If I met with them, the first thing he would do is stand up and yap and howl about having private meetings with certain groups. What we want to do is have a public debate and let it go to a committee. I am sure my honourable friend would want to have that kind of discussion here. So I say to my honourable friend, I think that, reasonable as sometimes he is, after he reads the bill, which he has not done at this point in time, he will probably have a different view than he has at the present time.

Mr. B. Rae: I have a new question. The Premier's definition of "democracy" is to say one thing during an election and to turn around and do exactly the opposite after the election.

Mr. Speaker: New question?

Mr. B. Rae: That is his definition of "democracy."

Mr. Speaker: New question and to whom?

Mr. B. Rae: Everybody in this province knows it.

Mr. Speaker: New question to whom?

NUCLEAR POWER

Mr. B. Rae: I have a new question for the Premier. The report yesterday was released by Professor Hare with respect to Ontario Hydro. The report stated many things and Dr. Hare also said some important things in the course of his press conference. The Premier will no doubt be aware that one of the fundamental points that Dr. Hare makes is that the major problem with respect to Candu, with respect to Pickering, Darlington and Bruce, is the fact that we have a technology which is proving troublesome with respect to the pressure tubes.

The Premier will be aware of the cost of every time the pressure tubes are replaced. We are looking at \$400 million per reactor when you build in the cost of substitute power. I would like to ask the Premier what is the government's response to the profound statement by Dr. Hare, "I feel very uneasy about reliance on one design"? Dr. Hare is saying it is a mistake for Ontario to be putting all its eggs in one basket when it comes to Ontario Hydro, in terms of the financial future of this province.

I wonder if the Premier can tell us, given his experience going back in this House quite a long way with respect to the future of Ontario Hydro, what is the government's response to this question.

1420

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I should tell the honourable member that the government started to respond a long time ago with respect to changes at Ontario Hydro.

He will notice, and I am sure he has been following this closely, the new thrusts of Ontario Hydro with respect to conservation, with respect to cogeneration, with respect to hydraulic development. I am sure my honourable friend, being fairminded, as he is, would understand and recognize that.

Now we have a report from Dr. Hare. I can tell my honourable friend that the government has not yet deliberated on the matter. We obviously take it seriously and, in due course, will report back to my friend with respect to any responses by the government.

Mr. B. Rae: Dr. Hare stated that, in fact, it was getting so bad with respect to Ontario's reliance on the one design and on nuclear alone that it would be more appropriate to call Ontario Hydro "Ontario Nuclear" than to call it Ontario Hydro. That was his statement.

I would like specifically to ask the Premier how he responds to the statement by Dr. Hare that overall research expenditures on Candu problems appear low in relation to the huge investment by Ontario Hydro and the latter's large annual sales, over \$2.5 billion, from nuclear energy. He is clearly saying that Hydro is not doing the job it should be doing with respect to research on this particular problem with respect to the Candu reactor. What is his response to that?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Traditionally the research responsibility was that of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., and the member will be aware that AECL, a federal agency, has substantially cut back on its contribution. Indeed, not too long ago, as I recall the facts—and it stands subject to be corrected—Ontario Hydro picked up an additional \$25 million to \$35 million in research, particularly on those matters.

Now, my honourable friend has raised the issue of the tubes; and he is right, there is a retubing going on. That was planned for, as I understand it, in the financing of those particular Candu units. My friend would argue that was done ahead of time, and in fact it was, but it is contemplated to be a normal retubing out of the life of that reactor.

So I think my honourable friend would want to read that report again in an evenhanded, fair-minded way. Not to say that there are not problems, but I think my friend would be the first

to stand up and admit that Dr. Hare would be the last one who would stand up and try to create hysteria about the safety of our nuclear plants. In fact, he very much takes the opposite view.

Mr. B. Rae: Let us see what else Dr. Hare has to say. The Premier can characterize it in whatever language he wants. Let us use the language that Dr. Hare uses and see how the Premier responds to it:

“Unfortunately, little has yet been done to give effect to this plan,” referring to the 1986 nuclear emergency plan, “in spite of a cabinet decision to arrange for its financing by Ontario Hydro. The professional staff involved still numbers only two. A sense of urgency is lacking. If a severe accident occurs, it will find the utility prepared and the province unready—unless prompt action is taken.”

Those are Dr. Hare’s words. Can the Premier tell us the government’s response to that very critical indictment of this province’s failure to respond to the nuclear emergency plan?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is a different question than my honourable friend raised in his original question, but I am very happy to respond to it. We take the report seriously. I can tell him that the ministers are deliberating on it and I am sure we will see a response in the very near future.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Minister of Transportation and it relates to the question of the provincial subsidization for municipal transit systems.

As the minister is aware, the Toronto Transit Commission at the moment receives a 50 per cent subsidy from Ontario relative to the operation of its subway service. Should Metropolitan Toronto make a determination opting for the municipal option as it relates to Sunday shopping, is his ministry prepared to extend and to expand the subsidy to cover the additional hours of operation that would occur if that eventuality were to take place—namely, the extension of that service?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: It is very much a hypothetical question from the leader of the third party. The same rules would apply to the system of the TTC. It is not just the subway; we subsidize, of course, the entire operating cost of both the surface and subway vehicles, and we would treat Metropolitan Toronto the same way we would the city of Sarnia.

Mr. Brandt: That is very comforting to hear, since the Association of Municipalities of Ontario was put in much the same category by the

Premier (Mr. Peterson), as being a group that was raising some hysteria about this question. I suppose that was intended to imply that when they object to the kind of legislation being proposed by the government, they obviously have to be less than sensitive, less than thoughtful and perhaps somewhat bordering on hysteria. I do not share those particular views. Since the municipalities are in fact going to be responsible for certain areas of public transportation, I think it would serve the ministry well to send out a signal as to what portions of that expanded service the minister is prepared to fund if in fact municipalities opt for the Sunday option that would be available to them with his legislation.

On this particular schedule of train operations, it is interesting to note—

Mr. Speaker: By way of question, I hope.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Is that media training?

Mr. Brandt: No, I needed a large chart for me. I will send you a copy.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Five out of 10 doctors recommend—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Again, it has been a 90-second warm-up.

Mr. Brandt: I just want to point out that the Milton, Georgetown, Bradford, Richmond Hill and Stouffville GO trains—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: This camera.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: To the camera.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Hold it higher, higher.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: —that all those particular GO trains in fact do not provide Sunday service at the moment. Is the minister prepared to commit to the people of Ontario, and particularly those who would be affected by Sunday openings in this province, were they to take place, and this is not a hypothetical question—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member has me at a disadvantage. I could not understand whether he was questioning our subsidies to GO Transit or the TTC.

Mr. Brandt: Both.

Mr. Cordiano: That was an eye test.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: If it is an eye test, I failed because I could read only the top line of his show-and-tell contribution to question period.

It is very much a hypothetical question. The bill has not been approved by this Legislature. It has not been introduced, I am told. I have been away for a day or two. I think the record of this

government—and with the help of the Treasury we are committed to providing an efficient, safe transportation system, whether by transit or by highway, to the people of Ontario.

[Applause]

Mr. Brandt: They applaud an answer which has nothing to do with the question.

Hon. Mr. Scott: It is always tough to applaud the question. Even they were having trouble. I mean Cam did his best but he couldn't applaud that question.

Mr. Callahan: The question had nothing to do with the answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: I am not questioning the safety or the efficiency of the transportation system. I am asking a very direct question, the answer to which is of interest and importance to the association of municipalities and to people who are going to require a program and a system of transportation if in fact the Sunday option is exercised by these municipalities.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Brandt: There are additional costs that are going to be associated with Sundays, such as day care services and police. Transportation is one of them. Has the government even considered the additional cost of providing these particular services?

1430

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that the bill be allowed to be introduced so that issues related to it, as the member points out, can be properly discussed. Certainly, we have initiated discussions with various operators and transit authorities throughout the province.

RETAIL SALES TAX

Mr. Brandt: I have a question of the Treasurer. By way of question, let me read into the record a motion I hope our party will not have to put forward.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I would have thought you would introduce the bill and then talk about it. Is that crazy?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) and many other members would allow the member for Sarnia to place his second question.

Mr. Brandt: I hope I will not have to put forward the motion I am about to read, which relates to the budget, when we have an opportu-

nity to respond, which I assume will be this coming Monday. The motion reads:

"This House regrets the regressive and inflationary increases in the retail sales tax and the inadequacy of the tax credit to offset the regressive nature of this tax."

The Treasurer knows and has stated publicly in the past that an increase in either the amount or the base of the retail sales tax is regressive and inflationary. Can he assure us today that we will not be seeing such a regressive and inflationary policy in the budget he is about to release tomorrow?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The motion sounds vaguely familiar to me. I do not know whether it was 1973, maybe 1962. I sincerely hope the honourable member will not be so misguided as to put forward that motion as well.

Mr. Harris: We certainly hope the Treasurer will not give us cause to read back other quotes next week. Let me—

Mr. Speaker: Ask a supplementary?

Mr. Harris: —by way of supplementary, suggest two things to the Treasurer. First, it was 1973. The Treasurer is pretty close. One of the other parts of that motion he seconded in 1973, as he was going on to a host of sins, and I will quote one of the things he condemned, "the imposition of tax increases of any kind which counteract the initiatives taken by the federal government through the reduction of taxes."

Bearing in mind his views on anybody who would be so despicable as even to contemplate that action, now that he is in a position to do so will the Treasurer guarantee that his budget will not tax back some of the benefits of federal tax reform now available to 80 per cent of the households of this province?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am thinking of going to Florida. I cannot make such a guarantee other than to tell the honourable member that circumstances alter cases and that I am doing some research in that direction.

Mr. Harris: By way of final supplementary, the Treasurer indicates that situations can alter due to circumstances. We know what he felt when he took over. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) said, "The Progressive Conservatives left the Ontario economy in good shape." When he was asked about other things, when reminded the Tories were defeated in June, three months after the fiscal period ended, the Premier then gave the Tories credit for their strong economic performance. Obviously, nothing changed up to 1985.

If circumstances have changed, they have changed in 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988.

If the Treasurer will not give the guarantee on counteracting the federal tax initiative, that he will not take that money back: recognizing, as he has said many times, the inflationary aspect of a sales tax increase, will he guarantee to school boards, to hospitals and to municipalities that if they face an increase in costs because of his budget and any sales tax increases, there will be a reflection in provincial transfers back to those agencies to compensate the many millions of dollars?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member is correct when he talks about the strength of Ontario's economy. It is one of the strongest in North America—as a matter of fact, one of the strongest in the western world. We have created jobs faster than in any other period in our history, and our economy remains buoyant.

I think any government that tries to take credit for that, or even to shoulder all the blame when the economy is not so good, is simply making a mistake. Governments can assist in providing an atmosphere for economic growth and business confidence. That is the intention of this government; it has been and I hope it will be in the future.

When the member asks for guarantees, I can guarantee him a budget that meets the requirements of the time in a fair and equitable way, based on fiscal responsibility.

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Premier. The Premier is no doubt aware of the contract dispute at Wheel-Trans, where the workers are asking only for parity with the Toronto Transit Commission drivers. They currently earn \$11 an hour, while the TTC workers will get \$16.02 an hour as of this July. The company, the Para-Way division of All-Way Transportation Corp., seems to be trying to keep the wages down for the next year until the TTC takes over.

The local union, Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, has demanded that they open the books, which may be the key in this particular situation. What measures, including having the company open its books, will the Premier take to ensure that the thousands of elderly and disabled who need the Wheel-Trans service will not be used as pawns by the company in this particular dispute?

Mr. Faubert: Try "by the union".

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The government has taken the position—

Mr. Breaugh: What's that, Frank? Put it in the Star.

Mr. Mackenzie: Put it in the record.

Mr. Wildman: Say it again.

Mr. Faubert: That is what he said.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Mackenzie: The province has a direct interest, as the Premier knows, in these negotiations. Affected will be thousands of disabled. Furthermore, the Ministry of Transportation picks up 14 per cent of the cost of the TTC, which contracts the Wheel-Trans service from All-Way.

Two years ago the government gave the doctors a hefty increase at the same time that it legislated these same Wheel-Trans workers back to work and kept the \$4 difference between them and their counterparts. What will the Premier do to bring fairness to the Wheel-Trans workers this time around? I am sorry, I did not hear the last part of the Premier's comment. Will he see that as part of these negotiations the books are opened up?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot be held in account when all the member's colleagues are shouting and yelling and he cannot hear my response.

Let me say that the government is going to hope that the parties understand the effects of what they are involved in and will act accordingly.

ONTARIO HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

Mr. Eves: My question is to the Minister of Health. Recently, the president of the Ontario Medical Association said the Premier's Council on Health Strategy had been discussing options for health funding. The two options mentioned by Dr. Scully were an increase in Ontario health insurance plan premiums and elimination of OHIP premiums with an increase in the tax base.

My question to the minister is very simple. Which one of these options will the government be implementing in the future?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: With regard to statements by Dr. Scully or any other member of the Premier's council, I think it is important to note what the policy positions of this government are. It is our position, and we have already taken significant steps, to remove from the OHIP rolls those most in need of assistance. It is important to

note that at this time only 11 per cent of the people of this province pay premiums directly.

Mr. Eves: The Premier himself is the chairman of this committee. The Minister of Health is the vice-chairman of the health strategy committee. It is not going to be easy to ignore the recommendations of a committee when the Premier is the chairman and the minister is the vice-chairman.

The Premier said five years ago his party was going to eliminate OHIP premiums. The very committee he chairs is now considering as an option the raising of OHIP premiums. Quite frankly, I think it stretches one's credibility a little bit. The House deserves a straight answer.

1440

Is the government going to raise OHIP premiums or is it not? If it is not, why is the committee, of which the Premier is the chairman and the minister the vice-chairman, even considering that as an option? If the minister is not going to raise OHIP premiums but is going to eliminate them, is she going to raise taxes to do so?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am very proud of the concept of the Premier's Council on Health Strategy, which brings individuals together to seek solutions and to solve some of the many challenges which are facing us.

I think the record of this government is very clear. Over the last three years, there has been no increase in OHIP premiums. We have removed some 40,000 people from the OHIP rolls and we are reducing and eliminating the impact. At this time, only 11 per cent of the people in this province pay premiums directly.

Mr. Mahoney: My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Over the last several years—

Mr. Villeneuve: He has gone.

Mr. Mahoney: The minister is not here?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not see the Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Mahoney: Mr. Speaker, may I stand the question down until the minister returns?

Mr. Speaker: You certainly may.

SMALL BUSINESS

Ms. Hart: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

The Premier's Council report, *Competing in the New Global Economy*, describes the economy of Ontario as being prosperous, but that this prosperity concealed a number of serious struc-

tural weaknesses. The report recommends that Ontarians shift their focus away from traditional resource-based industries and towards higher value-added activities that would allow the province to establish new trading territory within the global economy.

I agree wholeheartedly with this basic premise and applaud the council—

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Ms. Hart: By way of question to the minister, I would like to ask what role he sees for small business in Ontario's new economic direction.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am sure members of the House know that small business is the major sector in our business economy. Most businesses are small or medium-sized. The role I see under the Premier's Council recommendation is to position those small businesses so that in time they can grow to medium-sized businesses and the medium-sized businesses can grow to become multinational businesses.

The only way they are going to be able to do that is if we really position them so that they have the capability, the technological skills to do it; and that is what the Premier's Council recommends, that we get that kind of infrastructure in place.

Ms. Hart: The Premier's Council report identifies a bias on the part of federal and provincial governments towards small, service oriented businesses, and the report recommends that this bias be adjusted to favour high-growth industries.

As the minister well knows, small business is a key contributor to employment in Ontario, having provided 35.4 per cent of this province's entire workforce. The same is certainly true in my own riding of York East.

I would, therefore, like to ask the minister if he could assure this House and the people of Ontario that support for small business will not be jeopardized by the implementation of the Premier's Council recommendations.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I can assure members of this House that that will not be the case. If one takes a look at the recommendations, one will see that there are tax exemptions in special cases for venture capital; there are tax incentives for initial offerings to small companies which are trying to raise money through the securities industry; there is a strategic procurement policy where we will provide help in research to allow small companies to bid on high-technology, public sector contracts; and there is also a technology personnel program, in which we will help small

companies access engineers and technicians so that they can be competitive with companies which have resources to have their own.

INSURANCE RATES

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Minister of Financial Institutions. He will be aware that eight states in the United States have now launched lawsuits against a number of major insurers there for colluding to manufacture the liability crisis back in 1985. It was a crisis, as he knows, in availability and in price. We have had the same kind of price increases here, the lack of availability to many groups, and the same insurers. Given the massive profits of insurance companies here in the last two years, will the minister investigate and lay charges here if he finds the insurance companies did the same thing?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I will look into the matter. I have read that these investigations are going forward in the United States. There is no formal investigation going forward here that I am aware of, but I will look into it and see what is coming forward.

Mr. Swart: I hope he would be aware of it because it would be going forward under his ministry, but I guess maybe there is no proof of that.

I wonder if the minister has seen the December 1987 statement of the Insurance Bureau of Canada, in which it states premium income and claims paid for property and liability insurance in Ontario for the year 1986; that was after the horrendous increases, which incidentally are still continuing. They had income, with two classifications, of \$2.45 billion, and they paid out in claims less than \$1 billion. That means the public received less than 40 cents in claims on every dollar it paid.

Given that kind of *prima facie* evidence of a manufactured crisis here for the same purpose—

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Swart: —will he give a commitment that he will investigate and report back to this House, and that if they did manufacture that crisis and used the same tactics they did in the United States, he will prosecute them?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member would know that a majority of the members of the House voted in favour of Bill 2 to establish an auto insurance rate review board.

Mr. Swart: This has nothing to do with that.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am answering his question on the basis that it has to do at least in

part with automobile insurance rates, and the investigations associated with that are going to be helpful in that regard. I am certainly not undertaking an investigation of the type that is going to lead to charges until there is some evidence of a stronger nature than that which the honourable member is laying before the House.

HOUSING ON GOVERNMENT LAND

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. We received a copy of the vacant properties that are being reviewed by the ministry to support Housing First initiatives or other housing developments. It includes Aurora-Pine Ridge with 74 acres, 42 acres in Mississauga and northeast Scarborough with over 1,500 acres that her ministry is looking at in the Housing First initiatives; Oakville, 24 acres; Vaughan, five acres. There is a whole listing of thousands of acres of land. It includes Whitby with over 1,100 acres.

What arrangements has the Ministry of Housing made with the municipalities involved regarding the sale of these lands for housing and are any of these properties going to be sold for below-market value?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would like to refer that question to the Minister of Government Services.

Hon. Mr. Patten: This particular list contains sites which it is the intention of the government to identify as surplus lands. At the point at which these lands become active for planning purposes, the first thing that is done is there is contact with the municipality concerned. There are discussions with the surrounding neighbourhood and interest groups that have some comments or some points of view of value to offer to the discussions, before the actual planning begins to occur. There is a whole acknowledgement of the Planning Act which, of course, is in support of the local approval process that is in the hands of the municipality.

Mr. Cousens: I am surprised that the Minister of Housing passes this subject away. It is a Housing First initiative. Having done so—

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a supplementary to the Minister of Government Services?

Mr. Cousens: It is obvious this minister just does not want to answer any questions.

What protection exists against speculation on these lands? What guidelines are in place regarding the type of housing that is going to be developed? What accompaniment of funds is there going to be for roads and schools? These are a variety of concerns that are of great concern to

the people who live in those municipalities. What is the minister's position on these issues?

1450

Hon. Mr. Patten: The guidelines related to guarding against speculation—the increase in the land value—is really part of a very important element of the Housing First initiative. The member will know that if the lands are not suitable for affordable housing, we are able to sell that land, take the revenues from that and put that into the housing development fund which is dedicated to affordable housing.

We think that is the most responsible way for this government to deal with trying to take the resources of this province and address them to an important issue like housing.

NOISE BARRIERS

Mr. Mahoney: Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to stand down my question until the minister returned. I should tell you I received a note and it says: "I am here. Ask me." It is signed "Sam." But I think I will direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. In any event, I thank the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) for his offer.

Over the last several years the ministry has been constructing noise barrier walls on a retrofit basis along many of the major highways when they run through residential neighbourhoods. This program is greatly appreciated by the communities it helps. The Queen Elizabeth highway in Mississauga has received a great deal of attention with retrofit noise walls. The community, however, has raised strong concerns about the timing of these new walls. Specifically, if a wall goes up on the south side of the road it will deflect more noise into the backyards of the homes on the north side.

Will the minister ensure that when noise walls are built, they are built concurrently on both sides of the road to avoid this problem?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I should apologize to the member. I had a delegation from my riding and I was out of the House momentarily.

The member will be aware that the locating and construction of noise barriers is an ongoing process throughout the province. There are a number of candidate sites, in excess of 60, that are currently on our list. We are doing some work adjacent to the member's riding and, certainly, we are very much aware of the concerns that he has been bringing to our attention for some time.

We are attempting to meet his request. I would offer that we will explore this further with

ministry officials and see if we cannot speed up the sound barrier in question.

Mr. Mahoney: The member for Durham East probably would get it faster but he would be out in the east end.

I would like to specifically request that both sides of the Queen Elizabeth highway from Mississauga Road to Erin Mills Parkway be designated for joint construction even if this necessitates a minor delay in the proposed construction time. Will the minister investigate this request and report back?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I would be only too happy to investigate the request of the member and report back to him at the earliest possible date.

PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Treasurer. The Treasurer does not know enough facts. In 1974, the Ontario government imposed a land speculation tax and then rescinded it in 1977. In the two years prior to the imposition of that tax, house prices in Metropolitan Toronto went up 24.9 per cent and 30 per cent respectively. In the three years following the imposition of the tax, prices increased only by 9 per cent, 6.6 per cent and 5.2 per cent.

The Treasurer obviously did not know that. Otherwise, he would not have been saying in the last couple of weeks that when a speculation tax was tried before it did not work. If the Treasurer knew this was the case, I know that he was misleading the House but that he was doing it inadvertently because he did not have that information.

Mr. Speaker: Is that your question?

Mr. Laughren: Now that the Treasurer has the information, will he give serious consideration to the imposition of a land speculation tax in Ontario?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I appreciate the gentleness with which the honourable member has put that information before the House but I do not agree with his conclusion. I think the fact that house prices moderated was probably not because of the land speculation tax. It was because there is a certain cyclical nature to these matters that occurs, even in spite of the best efforts of opposition members and governments to control prices.

My own view, frankly, is that we would be ill advised to move with a land speculation tax at this time. I do not believe it did work effectively last time. It disrupted the market completely for about two months. The revenue did not amount

to very much and it ended with a royal commission, before which I was a witness.

Mr. Laughren: It is truly an amazing coincidence that increases were in the 25 to 30 per cent ratings before the imposition of the tax and under nine per cent after the imposition of the tax. That is what the Treasurer is saying.

I wonder if I could give the Treasurer a very short quote from Time magazine of April 18. This is about Toronto: "Houses and apartments offered for sale in the morning are snapped up by noon, at prices worthy of Manhattan or London's West End. Investors flock into town from Hong Kong, South Africa, Britain and West Germany, leaving with pockets full of deeds." Then there is a final quote from developer Terry Martel: "Where else can you put \$40,000 down on a \$160,000 investment and sell it two years later for \$250,000?"

Will the Treasurer tell us why he will not bring in a land speculation tax that says loudly and clearly that land speculators are not welcome in the housing market in this province?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the member knows that many citizens of this jurisdiction, in the Metropolitan area, the north, Brantford, Windsor, right across the province, have had the opportunity to avail themselves of increasing costs and prices for real estate and housing properties. I do not think the idea that this is simply something that some mysterious group from Hong Kong is availing itself of, makes the kind of sense that seems to appeal to the member.

It may be that some sort of a tax or some sort of an additional control will be necessary in the future. Right now, our land transfer tax is returning a substantial amount to the Treasury of the province. I have even had complaints from honourable members of the House that the tax was too high. We are not saying that nothing will ever change in the future but, right now, the member will have to wait for the budget tomorrow when I have an opportunity to present it to the concerned citizens of the province.

TRANSPORTATION IN OTTAWA-CARLETON

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. Ottawa-Carleton now has a population of more than 600,000 people. It is the second largest metropolitan area in all of Ontario. It is the fastest growing area in all of Ontario, including the greater Metropolitan Toronto area. So it is even growing faster than this particular area.

This growth has put a substantial strain on the infrastructure of our transportation system in the Ottawa-Carleton area. As a result of a recent transportation forum, including all levels of government, including the provincial level, the conclusion reached was that while the total amount of money allocated to the region for transportation needs has fluctuated since 1983, there has been no growth in funding—

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Sterling: There has been no growth in funding matching the growth in population. Is the minister willing to make certain that the Treasurer in his budget tomorrow gives Ottawa-Carleton a fair shake?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Not only did we participate in the transportation forum, we initiated it and paid a major share of it. We are very aware and very conscious of the needs of a growing area, and particularly of our nation's capital and the region. My members on this side have often brought issues to our attention.

I would like the member to be aware that we have speeded up the project we inherited, namely, the Queensway, by a substantial amount of time and money. We have made the announcement to get on with Highway 416. We work very closely—in fact, Ottawa-Carleton receives something in the range of 20 per cent of our total provincial transit subsidies. We work very closely with the region, and I think that study shows the intent of this ministry and this government.

1500

Mr. Sterling: We appreciate the funding with regard to the forum. What we are more concerned about is funding to do some real work. I might add that if the Queensway had been completed when the Premier said it was going to be completed, it would have been completed two years ago. They are still constructing it now.

Last year the Treasurer enriched the budget for the ministry by some \$290 million; \$130 million was allocated for Metropolitan Toronto and \$30 million was allocated for the north. Is there going to be some special allocation for eastern Ontario or is the minister going to forget about us again?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I do not accept for a moment that this ministry or this government has neglected eastern Ontario or Ottawa-Carleton in particular. We have done a great deal of work down there and the member is well aware of most of it or he is driving in the dark. We work very closely with all the officials of the region, and

certainly with the city of Ottawa. Most of their requests are being met.

Certainly the member will know, having sat at one time in the government, that not all needs can be met, but we have shown more than a desire and a great willingness to try to meet those needs. As the member has pointed out, the Treasurer has been very generous to this ministry, and I hope it will continue.

LAND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. Adams: My question is for the the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I think he knows I have been trying to learn as much as possible about the agricultural side of my riding. I recently attended a meeting on his land stewardship program and I was very impressed by what I heard there. We hear a good deal about land that is being taken out of production but, as I understand it, under this program land is being brought into production. Could the minister tell us something about his land stewardship program?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: That is an excellent question. Apart from the reform measures of this government to provide better health care, better education and better social services, all at a substantially increased cost but carried out in a very fiscally responsible manner, this government also has the determination to provide a legacy of fertile soil to the children and the children's children of this province, so that they can adequately feed themselves as well as the less fortunate people in other parts of the world. That is the reason for the land stewardship program, realizing that we do have a very major problem in this province, that is, the loss of our land due to soil erosion.

This program has been well accepted by the farmers right across this province. It has been so overwhelming that the number of applications we have been receiving has far exceeded the allotment that we have been able to give to the various regions of—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Maybe the supplementary could be a little more specific.

Mr. Adams: I thank the minister for that response. I confess I could not hear the last part of it. I also confess to the minister I am not a farmer but I do struggle with a garden every spring. At the meeting I mentioned, I was very intrigued by a particular technique, which it seemed to me would allow me to cultivate my

garden each year without digging. It is called something like no-till seeding. It allows a farmer to plant without tilling. Apparently this can be used, for example, to improve pasture or to conserve moisture. Can the minister comment on no-till seeding for us?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the minister can do it very briefly.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: This is just one of the measures we are trying to encourage farmers to use in trying to conserve the soil. A lot of our soil is getting away from us, particularly in the spring when there is no cover on the ground and the soil is being removed by the wind. We are trying to encourage farmers to leave sufficient cover on the ground so that the soil will not blow away, and that is where no-till seeding comes into play.

It is a method where farmers move on to the land with their seeding equipment and plant the crop over the top of the stubble that was left from the previous crop. This program will help farmers to modify their equipment so that they can carry out these soil conservation measures.

HOUSING ON GOVERNMENT LAND

Mr. Breagh: I have a question for the Minister of Government Services. We have been waiting for someone to correct the record today concerning the site in Scarborough, the nine acres that the minister announced would be provided for in the Housing First policy for affordable housing, and where the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert) announced something different this morning—and I will quote from the Toronto Star story: "He said...9 acres of land at Ellesmere Avenue and McCowan Road were inadvertently lumped in with several sites to be sold by the province for future affordable housing. There are no plans for government-sponsored affordable housing anywhere in Scarborough."

I suspect that one of them is telling the truth. Which one is it?

Hon. Mr. Patten: I appreciate the copy of the article that the honourable member sent across the floor. I am delighted to let him know that the facts in the article are incorrect. That particular site was part of the announcement. It was part of the lands to be released to be considered for affordable housing, with a mixed concept for development in keeping with the character of the community.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Let's hear the supplementary, which should have an apology attached to it.

Mr. Breagh: The Attorney General has intervened, and I would like to put on the record

that I would be very happy to apologize to somebody if I could only figure out who was right and who was wrong. I would like the minister to put on the record this afternoon, in as precise a wording as he can muster, exactly what are the government intentions for that nine-acre parcel of land.

We have conflicting statements on what the government intends to do. Is the land to be used to develop affordable housing, as the minister said, or is it not, as the local member said? Which of the two options are we to believe?

Hon. Mr. Patten: I will just reiterate what I said; that the article was incorrect. I refer the member to the announcement I made in the House this past week. There were five sites that were identified. We introduced also, through the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), the concept and the sensitivity by which we hope to proceed. We will be working with the municipalities on identifying the specific site details.

SPECIAL EDUCATION IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

Mr. Pope: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. By now, I am sure the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) and the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward), as well as the Minister of Community and Social Services, are aware of the recent deterioration in special education programs and assessments in special rehabilitation and treatment services being provided for the children in northeastern Ontario.

Can the minister explain to this House why he and his colleagues the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education have allowed this deterioration to take place?

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Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The three ministries mentioned are currently in the process of putting together three teams of professionals who are going to work in the three major sections of northern Ontario and provide services, such as psychiatric services, psychology services and physiotherapy services, to the young people of northern Ontario.

There is presently a consultative process going on in those various sections, whereby the regional directors of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community and Social Services are working together, as to the form and shape this would take.

Mr. Pope: That is probably as close an admission as we are going to get that over the past two years this government has presided over a

deterioration of services to the children of northeastern Ontario. I want to know why, every time a school board from northeastern Ontario approaches his ministry or the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Health for special education funding under section 16 of his own memo, this minister and his officials say they do not have any money for it.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The member is aware of the fact that all three of the ministries he referred to have been very active in attempting to recruit into northern Ontario the kinds of professional staff who would supply these services. We have tried two or three programs. As a matter of fact, we have continued a program that the previous government had started. We followed up on that. They were not as successful as we wanted.

I point out to the honourable member, however, that despite that fact the allocation of resources from my ministry for children with special needs in northern Ontario, on a per child, per capita basis, is higher than any other part of the province.

Mr. Tatham: My question is to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley)—

Mr. Speaker: I do not see the Minister of the Environment. Do you have a question for any other minister?

Mr. Tatham: I will ask it tomorrow.

PROPOSED ROAD EXTENSION

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Last week the Metropolitan Toronto council approved plans for the Leslie Street extension and Bayview widening, which will link up Leslie Street in North York with Bloor Street, Gerrard Street and, ultimately, the Gardiner Expressway.

In view of the fact that a majority of the deputations at a public meeting on March 30 said that this proposal will destroy residential neighbourhoods, add to the pollution of the Don River and is contrary to the decentralization enshrined in the official plan for Metropolitan Toronto—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Ms. Bryden: —will the minister declare that this wrong-way proposal is a matter of provincial interest under the Planning Act so that the cabinet, including the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), who is reported to be against it, will have an opportunity to review the impact of the proposal on our environment and on the Metro official plan, which is aimed at decentralizing development in Metropolitan Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I understand that proposal will require an amendment to the official plan. We will certainly wait until we have further information in that regard and will consider it at that time and have full input.

Mr. Faubert: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Twice in this House there have been comments related to a statement of mine. I would like to bring to the attention of the opposition the fact that I have written a letter to the Toronto Star, a copy of which was left in my garbage can outside my office, but I guess it was missed by their research staff.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That certainly is not a point of privilege.

Mr. McCague: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I was interested today to find out that the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams) does not know anything about gardening or farming. Apparently he does not know anything about his phone number either, so I want to send it over to him.

Mr. Speaker: I am at a little loss—order.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Farnan: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition here signed by 16 citizens from St. John's United Church in Cambridge:

"We, the undersigned, disagree with Sunday shopping. Sunday is the only day of the week that is 'uniformly' a 'day off' for everyone.

"Not only is this a day for families to be together, to worship, relax, take a drive in the country or otherwise just be together, it is a day for neighbours to take a break from daily routine and say 'Hi' to one another. It is a day for communities to spend time together.

"If we say 'yes' to Sunday shopping, will we also need babysitters for our children while we work? Will we need banks to be open"—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the member. I am listening very carefully to the member who is presenting a petition. It is difficult to hear with the movement in the chamber.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Don't you know it by heart yet?

Mr. Pouliot: This is a different one; a new format.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If there have to be private conversations, please keep them as low as

possible. I know the member for Cambridge wants to continue.

Mr. Farnan: I appreciate the Speaker's intervention and I know the government will want to listen to the voice of the people of Ontario and the people of Cambridge. I welcome this opportunity.

"Will we need banks to be open, to get money for our Sunday shopping spree? Will lawyers, dentists, teachers, etc., etc., be required to work regular Sunday hours? This just has a snowball effect, and ultimately our children's futures are being decided here.

"We say 'no' to Sunday shopping. Please keep Sundays the way they are."

I have attached my name to this petition.

I have another petition here. It is signed by 18 citizens of the Melrose United Church in Hamilton and it is entitled, "A Petition Against the Local Option for Sunday Shopping."

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire, and

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"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This petition is signed by 18 citizens, and I have attached my name to it.

Finally, there is one further petition here. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, disagree with Sunday shopping. Sunday is the only day of the week that is 'uniformly' a 'day off' for everyone.

"Not only is this a day for families to be together, to worship, relax, take a drive in the country or otherwise just be together, it is a day for neighbours to take a break from daily routine, and say 'Hi' to one another. It's a day for communities to spend time together.

"If we say 'yes' to Sunday shopping, will we also need babysitters for our children while we work? Will we need banks to be open, to get money for our Sunday shopping spree? Will lawyers, dentists, teachers, etc., etc., be required to work regular Sunday hours? This just has a snowball effect, and ultimately our children's futures are being decided here.

"We say, 'no' to Sunday shopping. Please keep Sundays the way they are."

This petition is signed by 10 citizens, and I have attached my name to it.

Mr. Pope: I have a petition which was presented to me last Friday morning in my constituency office in Timmins. I will just shorten the presentation. It was presented by Larry Gagnon, the president of the Downtown Merchants' Association, and Barbara Jelbert, director of the Downtown Timmins Business

Improvement Area. It is a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are opposed to open Sunday shopping and want to retain a common pause day in Ontario."

That has been signed by over 5,300 residents of the city of Timmins and indicates their position on this matter.

I also have other letters of petition, which I will include with this one, from the people of Matheson and Iroquois Falls, including the Iroquois Falls Chamber of Commerce.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. M. C. Ray: I have yet another petition, addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, petitioning the Ontario Legislature to introduce legislation which would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest extent without prejudice or harassment.

It is signed by 80 residents of Windsor, and I have attached my name to it.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a new petition on the issue of Sunday working. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario, because despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a 'local option' for municipalities and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to

enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans, none the less, to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more, and not less, difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with the right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and if necessary refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weigh heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers, where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades of recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I would hope the government will address the concerns expressed in that petition.

Mr. Speaker: Did you sign that as well?

Mr. Morin-Strom: Yes, I have signed that petition.

I have a second petition, which reads as follows:

"Petition to the government of Ontario regarding Sunday openings:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, residing in the region of Niagara, support the intent and recommendations of the all-party committee of the Ontario Legislature and the ruling handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada rejecting wide-open Sunday shopping

and recognizing the need of a common pause day for family nurture.

"We therefore call upon the Premier, David Peterson, and his government to pass province-wide legislation rejecting wide-open Sunday shopping and upholding Sunday as a common pause day."

I have signed this one as well and submit it for consideration.

Mr. Jackson: I have several petitions here.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We call upon the government to accept the recommendation of 25 members of the Burlington Christian Reformed Church, who have signed a petition which reads, in part, as follows:

"We urge the Ontario Legislature not to pass legislation that would pass responsibility for regulating Sunday and holiday retail hours to the municipalities in Ontario. Rather, the Ontario government should revise its current legislation in order to uphold more strongly a common pause day across the province. We believe that a common day for family and worship activities is essential to the wellbeing of Ontario. We ask the government to abandon its attempt to make Sunday working a municipal responsibility."

That is signed by the members of that congregation, and it has been signed by myself also.

I have two further petitions, which I will not necessarily read into the record, but they are from approximately 150 retail workers in the riding of Burlington South, and another series of petitions and handwritten letters stating objections from family members of retail workers in the riding of Burlington. I submit those as well for the government's consideration and they have also received my signature and endorsement.

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Mr. Philip: I have a petition signed by members of Our Saviour Lutheran Church on Islington Avenue in the riding of Etobicoke-Rexdale:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province, and we object to the further commercializing of life

through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have signed that and I endorse the petition.

I have a different petition which read as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family, which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be

together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have signed this petition with all of the quotes that are contained from the select committee, just as I and the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) signed those same quotes when we signed that select committee report.

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition here to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The petition is stating opposition to Sunday shopping. I will not take the time to read the petition; it is quite lengthy.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Oh, Margaret, you're so good to us.

Mr. Pope: On the other hand, maybe you should if the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) wants you to.

Mrs. Marland: If the Minister of Labour is asking me to do it, I will certainly do that.

What I have to say is that this bundle of petitions comes from six ridings, including my own, and I think that in itself is significant. The ridings include Mississauga South, Etobicoke West, Mississauga East, Oakville South, Mississauga West and Mississauga East. As members can see, it is a large number of petitions. They were submitted to me for presentation in this House, and I have signed my signature in agreement with the petition.

Mr. Charlton: I have two petitions that I would like to read this afternoon. The first one is from 40 members of the congregation of Olivet United Church in Hamilton, members who reside in the ridings of Hamilton Mountain and Hamilton West. The first petition reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and that they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that legislation governing Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening bylaws would set one municipality against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace. Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to municipalities."

I have signed that petition, Mr. Speaker, and I have a second one:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in

Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have signed my name to that as well, Mr. Speaker.

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Mr. McLean: I have a petition here.

"We are the interfaith committee supporting the Coalition Against Open Sunday Shopping. The religious organizations represented here are: Reverend Hudson Hilsden, the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; Canon A. R. Cuyler, Anglican Diocese of Toronto; Canon T. H. Rooke, St. Bride's Anglican Church; Father Massey Lombardi, Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto," and the list goes on and on of several of the clergy in Ontario who are behind this petition.

"The media and the general public have heard primarily from our coalition allies from the retail sector and from labour. While we have been active participants within the coalition, we have chosen to maintain a low profile—until now.

"We believe that the government has misread the strength of feeling in Ontario regarding the issue of Sunday and wide-open shopping." The public acrimony is mounting with this introduction and the public is concerned about the legislation and is very much opposed to the shopping.

The petition goes on and states the amount of 50,000 voters whom they are concerned about. They are concerned that it will lead to wide-open Sunday shopping. I have signed that petition on behalf of over 50,000 people in this province.

Miss Martel: I have two petitions which I would like to read into the record. The first is signed by residents of Scarborough, Ontario, and it reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation concerning the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and harming working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and

to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have endorsed this petition with my signature.

I have one further petition, a short one, which I would also like to read at this time. It is signed by 42 members of the Olivet United Church in Hamilton, Ontario. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and that they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that legislation concerning Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening bylaws would set one municipality against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace. Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to municipalities."

I have also endorsed that with my signature.

Mr. Runciman: I have a petition addressed to the Premier and the general assembly:

"At this point in time, Mr. Premier, you should have realized the errors you are making with regard to Sunday shopping. For some reason you seem determined to proceed. Perhaps this is the best route to follow, but only if you will allow a free vote from all members. I am confident that if a free vote was cast, the honourable members could not and would not vote in favour of your plan to turn Sunday shopping legislation over to local municipalities and that the common pause day be kept intact when you decide to review and improve the legislation as it now stands."

That is signed by residents of Brockville, Ontario, and Gananoque, Ontario.

Mr. Hampton: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and it reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the govern-

ment's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

That petition is signed by 16 individuals and I have endorsed my signature to it as well.

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and it reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays, to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue, and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario:

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"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities and, therefore, dumps responsibility for regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans, none the less, to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more and not less difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intention is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with the right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of a strong trade union representation, disputes over whether an individual's and/or company's actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of the workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

This is signed by residents of the city of Toronto, and I am affixing my name thereto.

Mr. Reville: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely

to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This is signed by four residents of the Riverdale riding, and I have appended my signature thereto.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows."

It is signed by 44 members of the congregation of St. Paul's United Church, 42 Tragina Avenue North, in Hamilton, right around the corner from my constituency. They say:

"We at St. Paul's United Church in Hamilton wish to make known to the officials and members of parliament of our provincial government that we oppose the transferring of authority to legislate on Sunday shopping to municipalities and to open Sunday shopping.

"We believe that it is important to maintain limits on the importance of commerce in our society and to protect persons from unwanted conflicts of conscience between work on one hand and religion and family on the other.

"We desire to maintain family togetherness and to keep a day set aside for people's emotional, spiritual and physical health.

"For these reasons, we urge you, as a person with influence in decision-making, to do whatever you can to direct the legislation of the provincial government towards keeping Sunday as commerce free as possible and to maintain the authority of the provincial government in this matter.

"Enclosed are signatures and addresses of members of our congregation who wish made known their desire to keep Sundays as indicated."

It is signed also by the interim minister, Joan I. Adams, and I have signed this petition as well and turn it over to the House.

Mr. Swart: I have a petition here signed by a number of residents from the city of Welland and delivered to my office yesterday morning.

It is addressed to "Premier David Peterson, the Lieutenant Governor and the assembly of Ontario." It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, hereby petition against Sunday shopping. We all have the right to a common pause day. Sunday shopping is unnecessary and unethical. Sunday shopping is too important an issue to be 'railroaded' and 'swept under the carpet.' On what, Premier Peterson and Joan Smith, do you base your assumption that the people want wide-open Sunday shopping? People do not want to work on Sundays to provide this service for Sunday shoppers.

"Our government is based on the democratic way, therefore, the majority wins. That means no to Sunday shopping. Do not introduce this proposed legislation, because it is not what the majority of people want. Have some backbone and file this legislation in the garbage can! Stand up and be a true, proud Canadian.

"Introduction of this proposed legislation will create a catastrophe and strip employees and leave them naked in the rain. This is what you will be doing because there is no way you could ever protect every person from not working on Sundays without being punished and dismissed for refusing to work on Sunday. If you think your desk is full of discrimination complaints now, just wait till you introduce this bill!

"You can still have tourism without stores being open on Sundays. You can be sure there isn't one tourist in Ontario that would travel 100 miles away to buy their week's worth of groceries or their new furniture for their home, or even lumber for their new addition, simply because that city allows their stores to be open for the sake of tourism. This is simply a farce. We do not want to be Americanized.

"Sunday shopping will increase the price of goods and services. It will not create more jobs, as there will be more part-time jobs replacing full-time jobs. People simply do not have more money to spend. Most retail stores are open between 60 to 70 hours per week. This is ample time for any person to shop. We were not 'born to shop.'"

As I say, it is signed by a number of residents in the Welland area. As members can tell, they feel rather strongly about this issue. I have signed this petition and will have it presented to the table.

1600

Ms. Bryden: I have a petition on the subject of Sunday working. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and protecting

workers from being forced to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This petition is signed by four members of the Beaches-Woodbine riding, which is my riding, and I am pleased to endorse it and send it to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly.

M. Pouliot: Merci, Monsieur le Président. Pendant que les leaders parlementaires, eux, se rencontrent, quelques-uns diront que quand les chats n'y sont pas, les souris dansent.

Le vice-président: Votre pétition se lit comme suit?

Mr. Pouliot: I take a great deal of pride in presenting, on behalf of 15 very concerned citizens on the issue of Sunday working, the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. Charlton: I have a petition from 16 members of the congregation of Olivet United Church in Hamilton.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and that they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that legislation governing Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening bylaws would set one municipality against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace. Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to municipalities."

I have signed my name to that petition.

I have a second petition signed by 17 members of the congregation of St. Andrews United Church:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

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"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have signed my name to this petition as well.

Mr. Allen: I have a petition from 18 residents of Hamilton who petition the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Needless to say, I agree with this petition and I have affixed my name to it.

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition which I have received from the United Senior Citizens of Ontario, whose head office is in my riding. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the policy of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario Inc. to oppose open Sunday shopping in Ontario and,

"Whereas we also oppose the government of Ontario abdicating their responsibility by turning the decision over to the regional municipalities of Ontario and,

"Whereas we decided to poll our many senior citizens' clubs for their opinions,

"We, therefore, beg leave to indicate to the parliament of Ontario the opinions of our members who represent many localities across the province."

The results from 24 different localities representing 28 clubs and 546 members are overwhelmingly in opposition to Sunday shopping.

The clubs that have reported are from Warton, Rockport, Hornepayne, Hamilton, East Gwillimbury, Sundridge, Thunder Bay, Kleinburg, Lindsay, St. George, Rexdale, Etobicoke, Kenora, Sudbury, North York and Marmora. The petition is confirmed by Joyce King, president of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario, and by Alex Mansfield, first vice-president of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario. I am pleased to support their petition.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I present my petition can I compliment you on the job you are doing under very trying circumstances. You are carrying out your duties with aplomb, diligence and dedication and I commend you for that.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: I think the Liberal members could show you more respect by stopping their heckling.

Mr. Laughren: The petition reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays"—

Interjection

Mr. Laughren: No, you are not going to; you are going to leave it to local option, in which case the workers could end up having to work on Sundays.

The Deputy Speaker: And the petition continues? Read on.

Mr. Smith: It will be good stuff, Floyd.

Mr. Laughren: No, it will not be, David.

—"to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities, and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres, but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules and different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more and not less difficult to enforce; and"—

Mr. Black: Are they different across the province?

Mr. Laughren: You are going to ensure that they are different all across the province and it will no longer be a local option, even though you are trying to pretend it will be. This will not be a local option. If one municipality decides it is going to have open shopping, you know full well that the next municipality will too:

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with a right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the

refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and”—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let's have a look at the bill, Floyd.

Mr. Laughren: The Minister of Labour is doing a lot of yapping, but when the minister tried to introduce the bill, he told—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member will address his petition through the chair.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you. In the past you have done a fine job.

“Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers, where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

“Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal;” the Minister of Labour knows that—“and

“Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades’ recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible.”

I am pleased to have presented this petition and to attach my name thereto.

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Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, may I also join in the compliment to you in the hope that this will also make you generous towards me. I am very glad the Minister of Labour is here, because this petition, which I have signed, from several people in Toronto refers to the minister a great deal.

It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, as it should be, and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and reads as follows:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to

local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario,

“Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal government who have already indicated they don’t want it; and

“Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation ‘was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres’ but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more and not less difficult to enforce; and

“Because the government’s stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

“Because the commitment by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with a right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

“Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

“Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

“Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers, where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

“Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, the refereeing of a refusal of Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

“Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades’

recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

It is signed by these people I had mentioned and will now be signed by myself as well.

Mr. Velshi: On a point of information, Mr. Speaker: I did not hear how many petitioners signed that petition. Just for the purpose of information, I would like to know.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There were two.

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition which is signed by 10 people from the city of Etobicoke. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health.

"We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

In other words, they are opposed to the view that we all should shop until we drop.

Mr. Laughren: This petition reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province, and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

This has signatures, too many to count, including my name.

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition signed by two residents of Ontario, in the city of Toronto, and it reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays, to not pass the buck to

local governments on this issue, and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario; and

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated that they do not want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans, none the less, to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more and not less difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with a right to refuse work that they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weigh heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because, even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades'

recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I concur with the petition, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Bryden: I have a petition from Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Islington Avenue, Rexdale, Ontario, on the subject of Sunday opening:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province, and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

The petition is signed by nine members of the congregation of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, and I am very pleased to sign it myself, to support it and to perform my democratic duty of presenting this petition in the Legislature.

1630

I have another petition, if I may continue. This petition is signed by three residents of Metropolitan Toronto.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario, because despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a 'local option' for municipalities and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and

different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more, and not less, difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with a right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weigh heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are 'reasonable' are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I support this petition and I have the pleasure of presenting it to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Mr. Swart: I have a petition here signed by two members—

Mr. Black: Two?

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I have been interrupted. I think we should make it clear that the rules of this province provide that citizens of this province, whether it is one or two or three, have the right to present petitions to this Legislature. I see these Liberals ridiculing petitions where there are only two or three—

Interjection.

Mr. Swart: Let them stand up and say they want to take that right away.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

The member will read his petition through the Speaker.

Mr. Swart: That point is worth making, Mr. Speaker. This petition, signed by two Toronto residents, is addressed:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated"—overwhelmingly—"they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours

of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

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"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I endorse the contents of this petition.

Do I not get any applause? I thought I did very well.

This is a petition signed by 17 residents of the Welland area and delivered to my office on Monday morning. It expresses some very strongly held views in opposition to Sunday shopping. It is addressed:

"To Premier David Peterson, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, hereby petition against Sunday shopping. We all have the right to a common pause day.

"1. Remember, you are shirking your responsibilities as government officials when you say give Sunday shopping openings over to the municipalities.

"2. Government officials are voted into office for the public's interest, not your own. Everybody wants off the hook! Where's your backbone, or don't you have any?

"3. Remember we are people with potent voices to be heard, not 'a herd of cattle,' nor are we 'doormats' to be stepped on.

"4. Stop changing your mind. You are supposed to be making decisions for the benefit of the people, not yourselves! Cards are stacked against the public who are opposed to Sunday shopping.

"5. Sunday shopping boils down to one thing: 'Greed.' The only people to benefit from Sunday shopping are owners of large businesses with already bulging pocketbooks. These are people who most definitely would not be working on Sunday.

"6. How many polls posed the question of 'Would you be willing to work Sundays for the convenience of Sunday shopping tourists'?"

"7. If people are forced to work Sundays, they will find it necessary to pull their children out of school once a week to give them a common pause day.

"8. Stop using tourism as the scapegoat for wide-open Sunday shopping.

"9. You are putting the law that prevents discrimination against religion to the test. You will not be providing protection to the future retail employee.

"10. If all retail stores are forced to be open Sundays, then all government offices, such as post office employees and officials, mayor's office and city hall and courthouse employees, should be open as well. There would be a lot of opposition from these people if the tables were turned around.

"11. All councillors should closely weigh the pros and cons of Sunday shopping. They should also examine their own families' and their consciences before ever jumping to a quick conclusion of such a serious nature."

It is respectfully submitted and, as I say, signed by 17 people of the city of Welland, some of whom I know and I know the sincerity with which they present this petition. I will sign it now, as I am required to do.

Mr. Pouliot: I have a petition signed by 22 parishioners from Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Rexdale, Ontario. As always, they wish to petition the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and would also like, if it is permissible, to thank the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) for allowing their voice to be heard.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition here.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are opposed to open Sunday shopping and we want to retain a common pause day in Ontario."

I want the House to know that this happens to be signed by 302 people in the city of Toronto and the immediate surrounding area. That is a short one, but we will deal with a little longer one in a moment. I have signed that petition.

Just to go to the other side of the coin, we will deal with one single petitioner from Toronto. I will acknowledge my colleague's remark that every single person has the right to be heard. I find unfortunate some of the comments about the numbers on petitions. That is why I did the 302 first.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and"—

Mr. Black: Do you wonder what's coming next?

Mr. Mackenzie: We have lots of initiatives.

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and—

Mr. Black: So do we.

Mr. Mackenzie: It does not sound like it.

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly

sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

1650

As I said, it is signed by one important citizen of Ontario. I am pleased to sign this particular petition and turn it over to the Clerk.

Mr. Reville: I have a petition, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario;

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities and, therefore, dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation was "becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres," but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more and not less difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intention is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment, because it provides them only with the right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals shall be mediated and if necessary refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers, where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

This is signed by two petitioners, and I have appended my name thereto.

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition signed by 14 members of the congregation of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Rexdale, Ontario. It reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I am happy to sign this petition and endorse its sentiments.

Mr. Laughren: I have a petition that is from both Hamilton and Toronto. For those members who are worried about the numbers on petitions, I want to reassure them that one person from Hamilton and one person from Toronto have signed this petition. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and families in Ontario; and

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities and, therefore, dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation was "becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres," but plans, none the less, to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more and not less difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with the right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers, where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers who seek to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have two petitions.

The first is from the Olivet United Church in Hamilton.

Mr. Miller: I have heard that name before this afternoon.

Interjections.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is a very active congregation.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that legislation governing Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening by-laws would set one municipality against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace.

"Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to the municipalities."

It is signed by a goodly number of the parishioners.

1700

My second petition is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and is signed by a number of residents of Toronto and Oshawa. I forgot to sign the last one, sorry.

Mr. Velshi: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: According to the standing orders, the number of signatures have to be mentioned. If I am wrong, please correct me, but the number of signatures on every petition has to be mentioned each time.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): I am sure that the member for Scarborough West is going to continue the reading of his petition and will indicate the signatories thereto.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am sure the member will want to read standing order 31(b) very carefully and he will see that the verb "may" is a verb which allows some latitude, as he may or may not know.

The Acting Speaker: I request that the honourable member continue with his petition.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Do members remember where I was? I do, luckily.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario,

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities and, therefore, dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach"—welcome, Mr. Speaker—"because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres'"—I believe it was the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) who said that—"but plans, none the less, to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within the region and different rules in different parts of the same

municipality, thus making the law more and not less difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier"—unthinkable that this could be the case, but that is what it says here—"that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to"—he said that—"and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with the right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch"—God knows how long that could take—"will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable and the number and character of those factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and—

Mr. Epp: Sounds like you wrote that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am getting it better the second time.

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers, where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities"—

Mr. Black: You said "reprehensible."

Mr. R. F. Johnston: "Reprehensible" is the word they used here—"in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I will affix my signature and then I will hand it to patient Paul, who has been waiting to take this to the table.

Mr. Philip: I have a petition from members of Rexdale Presbyterian Church in Rexdale:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

As I mentioned, it is signed by members of the Rexdale Presbyterian Church. I have also signed it.

Rexdale Presbyterian Church has just recently installed the most beautiful, ancient stained glass windows. I urge members of the Liberal Party to come and see the stained glass windows and see what the people of Rexdale Presbyterian Church have to say about Sunday shopping.

I have another petition signed by members of St. Andrews Catholic Church in Rexdale. St. Andrews Catholic Church has also installed new stained glass windows, although they are not as ancient as the ones at Rexdale Presbyterian.

The Deputy Speaker: The petition reads?

Mr. Philip: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

It is signed, as I said, by members of St. Andrews Catholic Church, the church with the beautiful new stained glass windows that I would urge members of the Liberal Party to come and see and talk to the people of St. Andrews.

Mr. Charlton: I have yet another petition, from 13 members of the congregation of Olivet United Church in Hamilton who reside in Hamilton Mountain riding and in the riding of Hamilton West.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and that they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that legislation governing Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening bylaws would set one municipality against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace.

"Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to municipalities."

I have signed this petition and, as I said, it is signed by 13 members of the congregation.

I have a second petition, signed by three residents of the city of Toronto:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these

factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

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"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have added my name to this petition, Mr. Speaker. I have one last petition.

"A petition to the government of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario residing in the region of Niagara, support the intent and recommendations of the all-party committee of the Ontario Legislature, and the ruling handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada, rejecting wide-open Sunday shopping and recognizing the need of a common pause day for family nurture.

"We, therefore, call upon Premier David Peterson and his government to pass province-wide legislation rejecting wide-open Sunday shopping and upholding Sunday as our common pause day."

This is signed by 23 residents of Niagara region and I have added my signature to that petition as well.

Mr. Allen: I would be happy to invite members opposite to come over and read some of our petitions. We have many to go and it might give them a little change of pace in the course of the afternoon.

Might I please read, none the less, first of all, a petition from a number of residents, 28 persons residing in west Toronto.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have signed that petition, Mr. Speaker, and I send it to the Clerk.

I have a further petition from St. Andrews United Church in Hamilton West, 21 names who petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in

Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have signed my name also to this petition and send it with the page to the desk of the Clerks of the House.

Mr. Charlton: I have a petition signed by five members of the congregation of Olivet United Church in Hamilton. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and that they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that legislation governing Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening bylaws would set one municipality against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace. Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to municipalities."

I have added my name to that petition.

I have a second petition, which is signed by 12 residents of, I believe, Etobicoke.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we

object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have added my name to this petition as well.

I have one last petition that I would like to present to the House. This petition is signed by three residents of the city of Toronto and reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario,

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a 'local option' for municipalities and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they do not want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation was becoming 'more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more, and not less, difficult to enforce; and

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"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with the right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because the substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the

refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I have added my name to this petition as well.

Mr. Allen: I have a petition here with 14 names on it, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have also added my own name.

I may say that this is a rather interesting petition with some additional inscriptions from Our Saviour Lutheran Church. Two of Her Majesty's younger loyal subjects, Chad and Derrick, have, with their uneven hand, added their names to the petition as well.

I will also read the following petition with nine names which come from the rural district around Lindsay, RR 1 principally. These nine names address this petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have signed this petition also and I send it with the page to the desk of the Clerk.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I have a petition which I was given by the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) and it is the same as he has been repeating all day regarding the St. Andrews

United Church wording. It opposes Sunday shopping.

Mr. Charlton: I have yet another petition from the giant congregation at Olivet United Church in Hamilton. This is signed by six members of that congregation.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and that they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that the legislation governing Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening bylaws would set one municipality against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace. Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to municipalities."

I have added my name to that petition.

I have a second petition signed by six residents of the city of Toronto.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail

employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own L-1730-1 follows unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family, which is regarded as the key pillar of Ontario society'; and

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"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness to them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have added my signature to this petition.

Mr. Allen: I want to thank the member for Kitchener for helping us out in this task.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Any time.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Rippon of Rippon's Variety store down the street from my constituency office may wonder why the member for Kitchener was reading his petition, but I would say to all the constituents of the member's constituency, I would be happy to read their petitions into the record also.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I haven't received any.

Mr. Allen: Maybe they will write after they listen to this session, and they will send them on to the member or to me.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Your current petition reads?

Mr. Allen: May I read into the record the petition of 12 names from Toronto who petitioned.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province, and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have affixed my name to this, and I will send this to the table of the Clerk. I also have another petition signed by two residents, one of Bain Avenue and the other of Wolverleigh Boulevard in Toronto, who petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to the legislation it has announced but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays, to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario:

"Because despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities, even within a region, and for different rules in different parts of the

same municipality, thus making the law more, not less, difficult to enforce, and

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to, and

Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with the right to refuse work they consider unreasonable, and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions, and

"Because the work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable or not, and the number and character of these factors weigh heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments, and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of the workers, for it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I have affixed my signature to this petition and I send it to the Clerk's desk.

Mr. Charlton: I expect we will probably see the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams) up on his feet next week introducing petitions opposed to Sunday shopping after his advertising campaign back here earlier.

I have yet another petition—

Mr. Adams: I am opposed to Sunday shopping, but not to this legislation.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Charlton: I have yet another petition, from four members of the congregation of Olivet United Church in Hamilton.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The member for Hamilton Mountain a

few minutes ago indicated he was presenting his last petition today.

Mr. Charlton: No, the last for that round.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I am wondering if it is proper to recognize him again.

The Deputy Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Charlton: It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and that they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that legislation governing Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening bylaws would set one municipality against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace. Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to municipalities."

I am adding my name to this petition.

Mr. Black: Is that your last one?

Mr. Charlton: No. I have another petition, from 12 residents of Etobicoke. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have signed my name to that petition.

I have a third petition, signed by seven residents of Hamilton-Wentworth, six from the city of Hamilton and one from the city of Stoney Creek. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the

legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

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"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I will add my signature to this petition.

Mr. Allen: I am happy to present a petition from 20 persons who reside in my constituency.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and

to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I am happy to sign my name to this petition and to send it to the table of the Clerk.

I have another petition I would like to read, which contains the names of 10 Chinese persons who live on various streets, Bloor Street, Middleton Crescent, Solby Drive, Lindsey, Ontario Street, Jane Street, Norval, Starlight Crescent, Kingston Road. They petition the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province, and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have affixed my name to this petition and I will send it with the page to the Clerk.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to the legislation it has announced, but instead"—

Mr. Callahan: What about the mayor? The mayor changed his mind, didn't he? He wants that.

Mr. Morin-Strom: The mayor is your problem; he is not mine.

The Deputy Speaker: The member will address his petition through the Speaker.

Mr. Morin-Strom: "We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario;

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a 'local option' for municipalities and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation was 'becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans, none the less, to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more, and not less, difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment, because it provides them only with the right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weigh heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are 'reasonable' are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers, where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I support this petition and I have affixed my signature to the same.

Mr. Callahan: Do you agree with the mayor?

Mr. Morin-Strom: Of course not.

I have a second petition. I can read the petition; I have some difficulty reading the signatures, because it includes some signatures in Chinese. There are a number of members of that ethnic community in our province. It says:

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"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I support this petition and I have signed it as well.

Mr. Charlton: I have a petition signed by 35 residents of the city of Etobicoke.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have added my signature to this petition. I have a second petition from two residents of the city of Toronto.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to the legislation it has announced but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays, to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario;

"Because despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation

'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more and not less difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with a right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise the so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I have added my signature to this petition as well.

Mr. Allen: I have a petition containing 33 names from the Rexdale area of the west end of the city of Toronto. I would like to read this petition, which is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health.

We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have affixed my name to this petition and I send it to the table of the Clerk.

I have another petition, which has four names on it, but I note on it a name that makes up for its smallness in numbers, namely that of our recent colleague Elie Martel. When Mr. Martel speaks about the state of and concern about the working people of Ontario, you know it is genuine and you know that you have somebody who is really on your side.

The Deputy Speaker: And the petition reads?

Mr. Allen: So it is with a great deal of pleasure that I read this petition. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said: 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open

Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have signed this and I send it out with the page to the Clerk's table.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

- Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 49

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Wednesday, April 20, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, April 20, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Reville: We chatted recently with the administrators of 20 hospitals, covering virtually all of Ontario and not excluding places such as Toronto, Windsor, Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Cambridge. Basically, we were interested in discovering two things: how many elderly patients are presently in acute care beds waiting in limbo for placement into some kind of institutional care and how were the hospitals doing in terms of their nursing requirements?

The results are alarming. In just 20 hospitals, we discovered 822 people who are occupying acute care beds, who should be in a chronic care facility or a chronic care bed. We found nursing shortages of 222 full-time positions and 40 part-time positions.

Clearly, this is a serious situation which is going to get worse, particularly because of the continuing loss of people from the nursing profession and the continuing ageing of our population. Clearly, the Ministry of Health has got to get cracking before the situation does get worse, bring in integrated homemaker programs all across the province and begin to talk seriously about why nurses do not choose any longer to work the kinds of shifts they used to.

TEMAGAMI DISTRICT RESOURCES

Mr. Pope: I feel compelled to comment on the so-called Temagami wilderness issue, as a member in this Legislative Assembly who resides 200 miles north of that so-called Temagami wilderness.

On January 26 and 27, 1983, there was a two-day seminar held at the Guild Inn in Scarborough. It was attended by representatives of the tourist industry, the commercial fishing industry, the trapping industry, all users-economic users. As well, represented at that meeting for the entire two days were representatives of the Provincial Parks Council, the World Wildlife Fund, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the

Ontario Council of Commercial Fisheries, the National Provincial Parks Association, the Sierra Club and the Algonquin Wildlands League.

This two-day meeting was the culmination of 186 open houses, which 10,000 people attended. Arising out of that meeting was the creation of the Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater wilderness park. On the notes to the creation of that park, on the notes from that meeting, is the compromise that environmental and development groups reached during those two days.

Included in that is the admission that timber directly to the south of the park boundary would be harvested and, second, that the road would be constructed. I ask the government why it is breaching this agreement, this compromise, that was reached five years ago by both conservationists and developers.

DIANA LYNQ

Mr. Bossy: It gives me great pleasure to introduce Diana Lyng of Chatham. She is the recipient of the Catholic Student of the Year award from the Ontario Separate School Trustees' Association. As a former chairman of the Kent County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, it gives me added pride because this is the first time a student from Kent county has won the provincial award.

Diana has demonstrated a strong commitment to the family. She has been active in the community and her church. Last summer she received the Canada Day award for excellence. Diana will study political science at the University of Ottawa in the fall. She hopes to be a page in my old stomping grounds, the House of Commons. Diana also tells me she wants to pursue a career in politics, God forbid.

Again, I congratulate Diana for her commitment and dedication to her studies. She is indeed a worthy recipient of the student-of-the-year award. On behalf of all the members, I am sure, I wish her much success in her future.

PROPOSED ROAD EXTENSION

Ms. Bryden: With regard to the proposal for the Leslie Street extension and the Bayview widening, which was approved by the Metropolitan Toronto council last week, I asked the

Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) yesterday to declare this proposal a matter of provincial interest under the Planning Act so that the cabinet will have an opportunity to review any decision by the Ontario Municipal Board on the project and will have the final say, including the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), who has an opinion that he has expressed on it.

A majority of the deputations at a public meeting on March 30 said the proposal will destroy neighbourhoods, will seriously harm the environment and shows up poorly in a cost-benefit analysis. They also said it is contrary to the Metropolitan official plan, which encourages the development of multiple city centres, not more downtown development. I urge the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) and the provincial Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) to refuse to provide provincial funding to this project. Instead, they should put their money into improving public transit such as the Sheppard Avenue subway.

IAN MILLAR

Mr. Wiseman: Today I would like proudly to announce to the House that on April 10 of this year, Ian Millar of the town of Perth in the great riding of Lanark-Renfrew became the second Canadian rider to win the prestigious World Cup show-jumping final. His triumph on Big Ben, a 12-year-old Belgian gelding, took place in Sweden at the world's most important indoor competition. Mr. Millar defeated jumpers from all over the world in this four-day event to win the most coveted indoor title in the sport of show jumping.

Mr. Millar, who lives and trains at his home, the Millarbrooke Equestrian Centre at RR 5 in Perth, is rated the world's top show jumper. Lanark and Renfrew, and I am sure the people of Ontario, are as proud of Mr. Millar as we, his neighbours, are. I ask everyone to show appreciation for a job well done.

FARM CHEMICALS

Mr. McGuigan: Two years ago, I introduced to this House and to the agricultural community the increasing problem of farm chemical thefts. Thefts of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of chemicals in 1986 and 1987 threatened the existence of the rural warehousing and distribution network, and theft of chemicals also posed a serious threat to the environment.

Subsequent to my statement and with the assistance and co-operation of the then Solicitor General, a group of concerned citizens and

representatives of the chemical manufacturing and distribution industry formed Agri Chem Securities.

In November 1987, I reported on the success of the program, which resulted in a reduction in theft. Today I am pleased to report that not only have there been no recorded thefts in this, the 1988 season, but also charges have been laid against a number of individuals, ranging from possession to theft of farm chemicals over \$1,000. As well, valuable chemicals stolen in 1987 have been recovered.

I congratulate the Agri Chem Securities group and the solicitors general for their involvement and support. Crime prevention programs do work.

1340

Mr. Speaker: The member for Markham for a minute and 15 seconds.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Cousens: Today, with the announcements from the budget, I am looking forward on behalf of the people of York region to a significant increase in funding for Highway 407. Highway 407 was begun last year with the announcement and the turning of the sod for the first phase. It was \$25 million or so that was invested. In order to complete this important thoroughfare, which will go east-west north of Highway 401, we will need something in the order of \$650 million.

What I am asking for today, and I am truly hopeful on behalf of the people of York region, is that this government will show its investment in the growth and development of York region by putting the money forward today for at least another starting point for Highway 407 to continue. Highway 407 now begins at Highway 400, running to Highway 427. What we want to see happen now is that it have another starting point at Highway 404, so that the highway is finished, not in 25 years' time, but in 10 years' time, so that the people who live there can have some enjoyment from it and use of it while they are still alive.

I think this is something the government has to face up to. I know the member for York Centre (Mr. Sorbara) joins me in asking for more money for Highway 407.

ORAL QUESTIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question to the Premier. When the Sunday shopping bills are introduced and dealt with on second reading, and

when they go out to a standing committee of the Legislature, would the Premier agree to follow three principles in committee in handling these bills, namely, that the hearing process will be a full, open and fair hearing process?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me refer this to the honourable House leader, who has been chatting with the member opposite on these matters.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am delighted to have the opportunity to respond to my friend the member for Windsor-Riverside. Let me repeat in this House today what I have communicated to my friends in the New Democratic Party particularly, and that is that we intend to proceed with the committee stage of these bills as we would in all other legislation.

We, or at least I, am going to be guided by, among other things, the traditions of this Legislature and by the advice I remember being very vigorously offered by the former New Democratic Party House leader, Elie Martel, who used very loudly, and I think quite properly, to proclaim the long-standing right of committees of this Legislature to order their own business.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The reason we posed the question to the Premier is that those words, "a full, open, fair and unfettered hearing" process, were uttered by him on July 2, 1985, as a public pronouncement in this House about how hearings on Bill 30, the Education Amendment Act, would be held in this province. What I want to ask the House leader, as a result, is why he will not today say the same principles should be applied to the committee hearings in this House on this important matter around the use of Sundays for work and shopping in Ontario? Why the distinction?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to take the opportunity to remind my friend the member for Scarborough West, who knows only too well what the past practices of this assembly have been in respect of organizing and ordering committee business, that we have a very well established practice whereby committees order their own business.

The government, I repeat, has said we are very anxious to have a lively legislative debate on the substantive questions associated with the legislation in question. We will be very delighted to have public hearings. I fully expect that the committee which will have these bills will proceed in the traditional fashion, guided not only by what I have said but by what people like Elie Martel so eloquently argued for just a few months ago.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Our concern is that the traditions around this place vary between minority government and majority government, and with majority government right now the traditions are no public hearings.

I am asking the government House leader to commit himself to not using his majority in the committee to set the agenda unilaterally, so that there will be an opportunity for all those who want to appear before this committee to give their views either in favour or opposing the Sunday shopping proposals by the government.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to repeat for the benefit of my friend the member for Windsor-Riverside that the government intends to proceed, allowing the committee to order its own business. My memory of the standing committee on social development is that, in the matter of Bill 30, it ordered its own affairs, and that is as it should be.

I just want to add that if this is a new and a democratic party, then surely it will want the right for this legislation to be introduced, to be acknowledged, so that honourable members on all sides in this chamber can get on with their responsibilities, which are to begin a substantive debate on the issues at hand. That, my friends, is surely something the opposition would want to accommodate.

Mr. Speaker: New question. The member for Scarborough West.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The House leader should know, because he was—

Mr. Speaker: The question is to whom?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will direct it to the Premier again, who will no doubt redirect it. It is on the same matter.

The House leader should know, because he was intimately involved in the Bill 30 hearings, that continually through that process we were reminded of our commitment and the commitment of the government of the day that we would not be curtailing our hearings in any way. That is why we heard the 900 and some respondents.

During the election, the Premier ran on a very different platform around Sunday shopping from what his present legislation reflects. The people of Ontario who voted for him in very large numbers, we all know too well, all want to be able to have a say as to whether they agree with his change of heart or whether they feel he has not kept himself accountable to them.

I want to ask the Premier—it is a very simple matter for us on this side—if he will do what he did on Bill 30, will deal the way he dealt with

things on Meech Lake and call openly in this House, before it goes out to committee, for full, open, unfettered hearings. Then we will be happy to give the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) the normal use of this House for his budget this afternoon. Why will the Premier not make that commitment?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the honourable member really wanted to ask that question of the House leader.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Surely my good and reasonable friend the distinguished member for Scarborough West would want me to repeat that we intend to proceed on these matters as we have in the past. We intend there to be a good committee hearing and we intend that the public will have its opportunity. But we intend that the democratic rights and responsibilities of members of this House also be acknowledged, and surely one of the most important and one of the most fundamental rights is the right of the government to propose legislation so that a substantive debate can now begin.

1350

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Just as the Liberal Party, when it was the official opposition, fought hard by using tactics that some parties claimed to be undemocratic to get public hearings on tax bills, we in this party are fighting hard to get fair and full public hearings on these bills. The rules are put in place not to protect the majority but to protect the opposition and the minority in this place.

I would like to ask the government House leader how it is, if these traditions that he is referring to are so solid, that when he dealt with Bill 30 the Premier's statement and promise was for "full, open, fair and unfettered" committee hearings, which were the guiding principles for the Liberal members of that committee and the orders from the Premier's office on Bill 30. How is it that commitment could be made, and was made, before the bills were even introduced into the Legislature? Why could he make those promises then when he cannot make those promises on these bills?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I repeat to my friend the member for Windsor-Riverside and, quite frankly, to the acute embarrassment of some of his colleagues who know that the government's position on this has been clear, consistent and reasonable, I repeat to my friends in the New Democratic Party, if they want legislative debate we will give legislative debate. If they want public hearings, I offer public hearings. But I

insist on the right, the democratic right and responsibility of this or any other government, to put the question and put the legislation to this House. I ask my friend the opposition House leader, what does he fear? Why will he not allow that most basic of democratic rights to take place?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I think no one in this province has doubted that the debate has been enjoined. I would like to ask the government House leader very clearly—because his position is not clear and I wonder why it is not clear—why he personally would not use the word "full" to me, yesterday and even in the House today? All we are asking him to say is that there be full public hearings, as he said there would be full, public and unfettered hearings for Bill 30—he himself, not just the Premier. Why will he not use that word now and solve this problem immediately?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I just have to say two things to my friend the member for Scarborough West. It is difficult for me to know, particularly over the last 24 hours, what the position of the New Democratic Party has been on this matter, because it has been as fluid as Lake Erie on a windy day. I am sorry to have to say to my friends that their position has been so changeable, their demands have been so quixotic, that I have not known, quite frankly, where they have stood.

I want to say in conclusion to my friend the member for Scarborough West that in Bill 30 the committee organized—

Hon. Mr. Scott: Robin has left. That's a sign.

Mr. Mackenzie: He can shout louder than you and can make less sense. He can shout louder than the Attorney General (Mr. Scott).

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: We will just wait.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question, the member for Leeds-Grenville.

Mr. Runciman: That is as good an example of arrogance and pomposity as we are ever going to witness in this House.

Mr. Speaker: I recognized the member to ask a question; to which minister?

ONTARIO HYDRO RATES

Mr. Runciman: To the Minister of Energy. I am hopeful that he is aware that Ontario Hydro has submitted a 5.5 per cent rate increase to the Ontario Energy Board for 1989. The hearings

will cost the taxpayers, if last year is any example, in excess of \$7 million. Yet the board cannot make a decision that is binding on Ontario Hydro.

The system is unfair both to the people and to Ontario Hydro. What we need is an independent board that can make a decision based on publicly known criteria. Is the minister prepared to make these hearings truly meaningful and introduce a bill this spring making the board's decisions binding on Ontario Hydro?

Hon. Mr. Wong: Ontario Hydro presented its rate increase for fiscal 1989 for 5.5 per cent, on average, covering all customers. The increase, as I understand it at the moment, is based on inflation and facility capital expenditure projections. At the present time, it would appear to us that the fairest way for the government to assess whether this rate increase is proper or not is to let the Ontario Energy Board do the review.

The dollar figure which the honourable member mentioned is small in relation to the \$5.5-billion annual budget we are talking about. I think the people and the government of Ontario want to know if the assumptions and the analyses are correct in arriving at this rate increase.

Last, let me say that with the government's commitment to make amendments to the Power Corporation Act, this is one of the key and fundamental issues that we are addressing. What we decide to do will be announced in due course.

Mr. Runciman: That is tough to swallow. The minister is suggesting that we can spend \$7 million and then simply ignore the recommendations. That has been the history in the past.

Two years ago, the select committee on energy recommended rate-setting powers for the Ontario Energy Board. Before that, his own party went on record as wanting more teeth for the board. What does the minister need to know that he does not already know in order to make a decision on this issue, and either move ahead with this legislation, making it binding, or set aside this farcical Ontario Energy Board process?

Hon. Mr. Wong: First of all, I do not agree with the dollar figure of the cost that the honourable member has mentioned. I believe it to be significantly lower.

Second, I would like to point out that I have some statistics here that indicate between 1975 and 1988 inclusive, during the 14-year period that has passed, in 10 of those years the Ontario Energy Board said to Ontario Hydro, "We think the rate increase should be lower." In nine out of those 10 times, Ontario Hydro's board of directors concurred.

Mr. Runciman: The reality is that it concurred in a very modest way.

The fact is that the expenditures of the Ontario Energy Board last year were about \$3 million, and in Hydro they were in excess of \$4 million; over \$7 million, if the minister's arithmetic and calculator are working well over there.

Will the minister at least indicate to us, in line with the recommendations of the select committee and his own party in terms of past history, whether he feels the board should have rate-setting powers? Would he indicate what advantages or disadvantages he sees for that process?

Hon. Mr. Wong: At the present time, the timing is upon us. Ontario Hydro has indicated what its rate structure is going to be. We are in the process of reviewing the Power Corporation Act. That is the sum of what I can tell the honourable member at this point in time.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to ask a question about Sunday shopping, but not to the House leader. If the Premier is answering questions today, I would like to ask him the question.

With respect to the local option for Sunday shopping, many members of municipal councils—in some cases, the majority of members—are also business people, in fact, even retail merchants with a direct interest in the issue of retail stores being allowed to open on Sundays. In drafting this ill-conceived legislation, did the Premier's advisers consider the fact that many municipal councillors would be placed in conflict of interest when called upon to vote on the question of Sunday shopping?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I suggest to my honourable friend that a majority of councillors are probably home owners, or if not that renters, and they have to make decisions on taxes as well. My honourable friend may suggest that puts them in a conflict of interest, but I do not think I accept his line of argument in this particular case.

1400

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I disagree with the Premier. I feel that if a member of council has a retail operation he does have a conflict, and many small councils are composed of retail merchants. Most good councillors in their wisdom will exercise their common sense and abstain from voting. In doing so, they will leave a minority of the members of council to make this decision. My question is, in the first place is this legal and valid, and in the second place is that the type of situation he would condone?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The councillors will govern themselves as they see fit. I think the problem my honourable friend raises is not in fact going to be a real problem across the province. If he wants to stretch his argument, he could say they should not vote on a wide variety of things, such as business improvement plans in some of the communities or other things. I do not think there is going to be a conflict in that regard and I think he can assure his friends of that.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: With 839 municipalities in the province, if some of them opt to go to a referendum this will create an impossible situation. By abdicating their responsibilities as a provincial government and forcing municipal councils to make the decision on the Sunday shopping issue, they have created more problems. As we know, every three years there is a municipal election.

My question to the Premier is, does that mean that every three years the laws on Sunday shopping could be reversed if the newly elected council voted against the existing bylaws on Sunday shopping? In other words, every three years there is a new council. One council votes it in; the next council votes it out. Is that his idea of Peterson's new Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am having trouble following my honourable friend's logic or his criticism in this regard. One could make the argument that any government here can change a law that existed in the past. As he well knows, we have changed a number of laws since we became the government here, and if there is a change of government then presumably another government can change those laws. Those things happen from time to time, so there is nothing particularly dramatic about that.

My honourable friend should know that those municipal councillors can now vote on tourist exemptions. He may argue that is a conflict of interest; he may not. I do not know why my honourable friend cannot grapple with the reality of this legislation that allows individual municipalities to take a different approach on this matter.

Is the member prepared to sit in Mount Forest and say you cannot do this in Sault Ste. Marie? Is he saying that the councillors of Sault Ste. Marie all had conflicts of interest when they moved to open up? Is he saying that the councillors in Point Edward, in the riding of his esteemed interim leader, had conflicts of interest when they moved to open up in Point Edward?

I think my honourable friend, thoughtful man that he is, after he reads this legislation and really

understands its full import, will find that his fears have been dramatically magnified in his own mind. My guess is, being the sensible fellow that he is, he will stand up and support us like his seatmate who is absent today.

HOME CARE

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services about the integrated homemaker program; in particular, some cases in Sault Ste. Marie.

Kathy MacDonald is 27 years old and has multiple sclerosis. She never knows from one day to the next how well she will be. Kathy recently was cut back to four hours per week from seven hours per week. She says that it takes most of that time just for her homemaker to do her laundry at the laundromat.

Meanwhile, Albert Amendola is 74 and lives at home with his wife, Mary. He has arthritis and she has had a quadruple heart bypass. Albert applied for homemaking services recently, and when they did not get a response they were told that the program has run out of money in the Sault.

Can the minister tell these concerned citizens, who need home care services, why he is cutting back those services and why he is restricting access to that service that is needed by so many people across this province?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Rather than cutting back the service, a considerable amount of money is being and has been added to the service. I believe I pointed out to one of the members' colleagues that the total budget allocated to the entire program was to be \$60 million. We are already spending \$58 million on less than half the program. That is the extent to which we are putting more money into those areas that have the program at the present time.

I also point out to the honourable member that the integrated homemaker program is an add-on to the existing system. There continues to be a homemaker program associated with the Ministry of Health home care program; there continues to be a homemaker program associated with needs-tested programs in my ministry. Integrated homemaker is a third level of assistance.

In response to the fact that there are people waiting to get the service, certainly there are; and yes, there is a cap on it, it is not wide open. There is a finite amount of resources allocated to this program, as there is to every other program that I offer, except those which are specifically mandated under children's aid societies and under

income assistance. All other programs have caps on them.

Mr. Allen: Two weeks ago the minister told me that he would be making an announcement in two or three days with respect to the crisis in the delivery of homemaker services; nothing happened. Last Friday he had an urgent meeting with the workers in the field; still no announcement. For four weeks in the Sault there has been a home care strike, caused by inadequate funding, which has disrupted home care delivery services; still no action. In Toronto, talks with 400 homemakers have almost broken down. One can retell the stories that my colleague has given to the House in area after area across this province.

On top of all this, the minister is sitting on an interministerial report dealing with the multiple and grave problems in homemaker services. Is the minister going to do something about the growing chaos in the delivery of homemaker services, or is he in the process of backing off from the commitments he and his Premier (Mr. Peterson) have made so often and so greatly to this province, to the seniors and the disabled in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: This government has clearly indicated that it plans to put and is in the process of putting into place in the communities across this province alternative supports to the elderly, the frail elderly in particular, and to the disabled so that they can stay in their own homes, in their own communities, as opposed to having to go into an institutional setting when it is not their desire or in their best interest. That is a commitment of the government. That is in place now.

I just indicated to the member's colleague that by introducing the integrated homemaker program—which sat on the shelf of the previous government for six years, unintroduced; we have introduced it—one of the things that we have learned is that the demand for service is greater than we had anticipated. That is something you learn only by introducing it. We are probably going to learn it by introducing other programs as well.

I point out to the member that in the Sault the service continues to be put into place. Any emergency admissions are being handled. The nursing supervisors who are responsible for doing the assessment are not doing the regular line of assessment, I am aware of that fact; but the service—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr. Cureatz: I have a question to the Minister of the Environment. As the minister is well aware, municipalities such as Halton, Peel, Metropolitan Toronto and Durham are looking frantically for landfill sites. Recently Metropolitan Toronto has indicated it is seeking three possible sites in my own riding: in the town of Newcastle, two along the shores of Lake Ontario, if you can believe it, one in the Newtonville area. Of course, in those landfill sites they are going to be putting in sewer sludge, which is at present going into the Brock landfill site, which I have not heard much about from the member for Durham West (Mrs. Stoner). In other words, when Metro flushes, we are going to be getting it out in Durham East.

I say to the minister, when are he and the Liberal administration going to get their act together and come up with a comprehensive policy concerning landfill sites, or is this going to be another Sunday shopping option for the municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Several questions come into that, but I will try to zero in on what I believe is the member's very legitimate main question.

First of all, as the member would know, historically, when his government was in power, it appropriately placed the responsibility for waste management in the hands of the municipalities. However, as he would know, the provincial government plays a regulatory role, and I think that is a significant role to play.

1410

We try to work as much as possible with municipalities across the province to assist them in meeting their obligations. For instance, in promoting recycling across Ontario, I believe some 75 or more municipalities now are involved in recycling so that they can overcome some of the problems the member mentions.

We do provide some technical advice to people when they ask us for that kind of advice, but the main role we have is a regulatory role to ensure that whatever proposal is put forward for the disposal of waste or the management of waste is acceptable environmentally. I want to assure the member that we would want to look at any proposals which come forward in that light.

Mr. Cureatz: Once again, the minister has not told us a thing about the initiatives his administration should be taking in regard to landfill sites for municipalities across Ontario. I would like to ask a very simple question. We are looking for a yes or no answer. It is so simple

even a Liberal back-bencher would be able to answer it. As a matter of fact, it is even simpler than that. Even the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney) over there would be able to answer it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We know in this House that sometimes questions take a while, and if they are fairly long then sometimes we get a long answer. I suggest the member try a brief supplementary. We may get a brief answer.

Mr. Cureatz: Yes or no, is it not true the minister is happy that Metro Toronto is looking at an opposition member's riding in which to put a major landfill site? If the answer is anything other than yes, the minister is misleading me in this House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am waiting to see what the response is.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I do not know whether the member wants to be escorted today, because I think those conditional words he used are usually a gateway out of the House, but I will try to answer the question of the member for Durham West.

Mr. Cureatz: Durham East.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Sorry, Durham East. The member for Durham West has asked me a number of questions in the House on this subject.

What I want to indicate to the member is that the initiative is to be taken by Metropolitan Toronto to determine where it would seek its particular site. I think that is the municipality to which the member is referring. It seems to me there were four or five sites they had mentioned they were looking at. Two of them are, I think, in Scarborough, and three of them are to the east of Metropolitan Toronto's boundaries. I do not think, if they are looking at all of these properties, they are looking in a particular riding of any kind.

It is most important that municipalities make a choice based on what is environmentally the most desirable site rather than making it on any other basis. The member would know, for instance, that there are people in the Niagara region who would like me to simply say on a political basis that there should be no consideration whatsoever of the Ontario Waste Management Corp. site. I said on that occasion, of course, that should be subject to the ruling of the consolidated board and the best environmental decision made.

I want to assure the member that as far as I am concerned, what is most significant is whether it is environmentally—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Beer: My question is to the Minister of Transportation. As he knows, the population of York region continues to grow at a great rate, standing now at over 400,000, and this extensive population growth has put many strains on the GO Transit bus and train service available to the region. I am sure the minister is also aware that travel from communities, particularly in the north—Newmarket, Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Georgina—is difficult in going to the southern ends of the region and into Metropolitan Toronto.

Is the minister prepared to tell us when the GO service in York region will be expanded?

Mr. Ferraro: After Guelph.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member for Guelph says, "After Guelph;" but that is his answer.

We are very much aware of the growth that is taking place in York region and the other regions around Metropolitan Toronto. We are very conscious of the needs of rapid transit and highway requirements within the regions. The member would be well aware of our efforts with respect to the ongoing project of Highway 404 and the commencement, finally, of Highway 407 last July.

He would also be aware that because of the government's recognition of the massive needs required around the greater Toronto area, including the region of York, the government established a transit review authority some time ago to look at those needs. I might say it is the first time in more than 20 years that the province has undertaken this kind of a review. That report is virtually complete. It is before me, and we will be making announcements in the fairly near future.

Mr. Beer: By way of supplementary, the minister is also aware that many of the people in the region and moving into the region, are seniors and students. These people would like to be able to travel to Toronto at a reasonable cost but are currently unable to do so or to take advantage of the special student and senior discounts offered by the Toronto Transit Commission.

Can the minister tell the House what steps are being taken to open up the availability of these discounts to students and seniors of neighbouring communities, thereby allowing them to travel within Metro Toronto's boundaries at the same

reduced rate that Metro's population of students and seniors do today?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The question the member raises is a very valid one and one we have viewed with some concern. It is one of the reasons we initiated this study to begin with. The movement of the cross-boundary traffic generated by commuters has been an ongoing problem, one we felt it was necessary to address. We are attempting to break down those artificial political boundaries between the various regions so we can implement what the member is seeking.

I think the direction we are going is best illustrated by the announcement of the GO Transit-TTC Twin Pass which we initiated earlier this year, on February 1. We are hoping to gain the co-operation of all the transit properties and operators within the region to effect the best possible transit within the regions and across those boundaries.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Solicitor General, who has a responsibility for funding assistance to rape crisis centres in this province. The minister may not be aware that the volunteer workers of a majority of the rape crisis centres across the province have withdrawn all education and support services this week to protest the grossly inadequate provincial funding provided to these very important centres serving women assault victims. I may say they are maintaining emergency service for the victims.

Is the minister aware that several centres have announced they will be forced to close permanently or drastically cut services in the next two months if the funding formula is not extended to cover paid staff and an adequate budget for other operating costs? What does she plan to do to give the centres the budgetary stability they need to continue to provide caring and compassionate service to assaulted women in this province?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I am sure the member will be very pleased to know my ministry is taking a very active and interested role in the matter of sexual assault of women and the rape centres that address these problems. We recognize the tremendous work done by volunteers in these centres.

There has been a formula devised over past years, in which the funding given by the province was directed to certain nonsalaried items. This was the formula that had been worked out. In the process of doing this, we gave certain amounts of money which have been dramatically increased over the last few years and are up again 13 per

cent this year. I am more than happy to meet with them to discuss the type of formula. I would like to be able to produce that limited amount of money. In fact, I have a meeting set with them for next week and plan to discuss these matters with them.

1420

Ms. Bryden: I understand the government plans to spend \$600,000 on a media campaign in June to make the public aware of the seriousness of the crime of sexual assault. If the government really thinks it is so serious, why does it continue to starve the centres or offer a meagre 13 per cent increase over completely inadequate funding that did not cover staff? Why is it not ready to sit down and spend a large portion of that \$600,000 on making the centres able to care for the women who are assaulted?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I think everybody here would agree that in the matter of rape and all forms of sexual assault, public attitude is the most important thing that needs to be changed, and this is the reason for a good deal of money being put forward to address this. I spoke to this in London last week. Public attitude was agreed by the people who attended that conference to be one of the most important aspects, be it the attitude of the general person with those who surround them in their lives, the attitude of those who read about it in the newspapers or the attitude of the police involved in reinforcing the law.

All of these attitudes are very important. I remind the member that surely one of the most important things that has happened out of the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere program against drinking and driving is a change of attitude in people, in which it is no longer considered either smart or practical to drive when you have been drinking. This is an example of money spent to change public attitudes in a very useful way.

Mr. Jackson: My question as well is to the Solicitor General. According to the Kingston Whig-Standard of March 31, the Ministry of Correctional Services and the Ministry of Community and Social Services will be giving \$85,000 to a Kingston treatment clinic for violent sex offenders. At the same time, the Kingston sexual assault crisis intervention centre in that same city of Kingston asked her ministry for funds it badly needed to continue, and she only gave them \$12,730.

Can the minister tell the women and children of this province why, in Kingston, her government is spending six times as much on rapists as it

is on their victims? How can she defend such a funding record?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Mr. Speaker, as you are well aware, we can always compare programs across different areas. I think the member would surely agree that addressing the treatment of sex offenders is an important one. These are people we have in our care by reason of the crimes they committed. I think anybody would agree that they should be looked to; in many cases, in time to come they will be released back to society. I remind the member that one of the strong recommendations of the Pepino task force was that proper treatment should be given to these people while they are incarcerated, in order that they may not be a danger to society when they come out.

If the member wishes to ask at another time any further questions about those programs, I am sure the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay) would be happy to answer them. On the other hand, as far as the treatment centre in Kingston is concerned, I do note their request is down and I am more than happy to discuss it with them when we meet on Monday or at any other time they wish to discuss it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the member might like to ask a supplementary for some further information.

Mr. Jackson: The minister has indicated that there is a need for attitudes to change in this province. I submit it is her attitude that needs to change in terms of her commitment to rape crisis centres. More important, when members of her cabinet were muttering to themselves about the 13 per cent increase, saying they thought that was pretty good, that is not the point. The fact is we are not seeing the minister's commitment to the rape crisis centres in Ontario. In Kingston, the rapists are getting up to \$100,000 and we are not adequately funding the only intervention line in that city. They have been forced to cut back their services to one single line in that community.

There are 20 centres in this province. Eight centres this week are providing emergency services only. The Kenora and Oshawa centres say that without more funding they will have to stop operations.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Jackson: I am putting this in the form of a question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Sault Ste. Marie centre has already closed. There is a 50 per cent increase in the demand for this service. When is the government

going to start adequately funding rape crisis centres?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I heard the question. Did the minister hear it?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The member for Burlington should know on this, our budget day, we cannot give all money to everything that is a deserving cause. We certainly are prepared to continue to increase the grants to these centres. The member mentions Kenora, which is receiving 26 per cent more than last year.

I remind the member and other members that these centres exist largely by virtue of the many volunteers who work within the communities, and some of them indeed have trouble continuing in their operations because of the difficulties of getting volunteers. Once again, we need to raise the profile of the problem so that people will volunteer and these centres will be able to provide the best possible service to the communities.

HOUSING ON GOVERNMENT LAND

Mr. Cordiano: I have a question of the Minister of Government Services. Given the announcement he made recently on surplus government land, and in respect to the government's intent to develop those lands, can you guarantee that the residents of my riding located at Keele and Falstaff will be consulted and invited to participate in any decisions concerning the development of those lands?

Hon. Mr. Patten: Yes, I will guarantee that the citizens in the surrounding area will be invited to be part of the process. It is a normal part of the planning process.

The member should be aware that not only will they be approached, but we would also entertain any possibility of some joint development with appropriate groups in the community.

He should also be aware that the approval process is a local municipality one; that when a proposal has been developed after full consultation this is put before the town council or the city council for consideration, and then there is further consultation with interested community groups for reaction.

Mr. Cordiano: I would like the minister to reassure the residents of the community that it is indeed the intention of the government to develop the land in question in a manner that is both sensitive to and compatible with the neighbourhood, ensuring that the quality of life

that residents there have come to know and expect will be maintained.

Hon. Mr. Patten: I think we have learned a great deal from some of the mistakes that have been made in the past around some massive social housing programs, and that that is not the best way to go. In our joint statements last week, the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and myself indicated our strong intention that we would be talking about mixed development, we would be talking about something appropriate to the character of the local community, and that we would be very much guided by the people of that community in terms of the nature of that particular development so that it is something the citizens of that community will feel proud of.

RADIOACTIVE SOIL

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. It is not a new question; it is one that has been raised many times before. It concerns the radioactive soil in McClure Crescent in Scarborough. Last June the minister said a decision about what to do with that soil would be made last fall. It appears now that the former residents have almost won their battle for damage awards as a result of the radioactive soil. My concern is for the present residents. Can the minister tell us when the government is going to remove the toxic soil from McClure Crescent?

1430

Hon. Mr. Bradley: As the member would be aware, the federal government has for some period of time now been investigating the possibility of determining a specific site for radioactive waste and we have, as a Ministry of the Environment, been attempting to work with them in this regard.

In other words, radioactive waste comes under the sole jurisdiction of the federal government and under the Atomic Energy Control Board here in Canada. Therefore, we are hopeful that with the exhaustive search they have been undertaking and with the extensive work they have been doing in this regard, they will come up with a site in the reasonably near future in order that the soil which is on the specific site at the present time may be moved to that particular site.

Mrs. Grier: Last June it was in the fall. Now it is in the "reasonably near future." Today the minister chooses to place the responsibility with the federal government; on other occasions it has been flipped between various ministers of this government. Last month I wrote to the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten) and the

Minister of the Environment and asked each of them how they could condone having tenants in those houses if they were not going to remove the soil quickly, and preferably at once. I would like to hear from the Minister of the Environment how he can possibly condone other ministers in this government renting out those houses when he obviously has no prospect of removing that soil in the very near future?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member would know, first of all, that I do not have control over the federal government or its actions. It is an independent level of government, so I cannot speak for the speed at which it is moving in finding a site. I have to believe it is sincere in wanting to find a site for that. I have no reason to believe it is not.

In a letter to me, the member did suggest that the soil could be moved to the provincial constituency of Bruce. Whether Norma Peterson, the NDP candidate in Bruce, would be pleased to see it moved there, I do not know, because no doubt it is the old problem that I mentioned. I know the member has that problem, as I do; that is, while it is easy to identify a specific problem and a specific contaminant that one would like to see moved, finding out where to move it and finding a receptive audience in that specific area is difficult.

I do not think the member has suggested that it be moved to the Reesor Road site, because I am certain the people there do not want it, as the people of Kincardine may not. The member would also recognize that the site to which she is referring is under the jurisdiction of the federal government, and therefore if the federal government is prepared to offer any site—

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, that completes that question and response.

ABANDONED RAILWAY LINES

Mr. Pollock: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. I have asked the minister personally and I have also contacted his appointment secretary to see if he would come down to view the abandoned railroad line known as the Marmora subdivision. My staff have also called his staff in the same regard. Will the minister come down and view that abandoned railroad line and meet with the people who are interested in it becoming a recreation trail?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We certainly have not been unwilling to meet with people on these kinds of issues, but there are abandoned railway lines in many parts of Ontario and there are many people who would suggest that the government should

take the responsibility and take them over for various purposes.

It has been against the plan of the government to do just that. We are asking municipalities and those people who want to use it for any kind of recreation involvement to do it on their own and then see if we can give them some kind of help relating to the particular initiative. This is a very difficult situation where not all people are in favour of having skidoo trails and/or other uses in areas that impact on their personal involvement.

Yes, I am quite willing, if the member would like to have his people come to meet with us on it, but he must understand that it is not a priority of ours to be acquiring abandoned railway lines for those kinds of purposes.

Mr. Pollock: I personally asked the minister to come down to see the abandoned railroad line for himself. It goes through a lot of rough terrain, and I am sure once he has seen it he will say it lends itself to a recreation trail.

His colleague, who was the former Minister of Tourism and Recreation, commissioned a \$30,000 study for that railroad line, so I think it is almost imperative that the minister come down and at least meet with the people. After all, he has already spent \$30,000 on a study. Why would he not come down and actually meet with those people?

Mr. Speaker: I think the member has placed his question.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I guess the member has not made it interesting enough for me to come down. If he would make some kind of offer other than just to run in and look and leave, I would be more encouraged to come. If he has some kind of way to fill out my day where I might do something other than look at that site, I am very much prepared to reconsider. In keeping with the interest of the Ministry of Natural Resources in providing the kind of recreation and the kind of park system whereby people now can avail themselves of the best park system in the world, I must say asking us to take on other responsibilities is quite difficult at this time.

I am still trying to unravel the terrible situation that was left by the former minister, who said he had agreement by all the users, which was not the case. He took them into a little room, browbeat them and acted as though he had a commitment, when in reality he did not have a commitment. So here I am, attempting to solve all these problems in the parks across the province.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: But I shall look, just because the member asked me in such a nice way.

Mr. Speaker: Good. New question, the member for Ottawa South.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr. McGuinty: I have a thoughtful question for the Minister of the Environment. Packaging from consumer products is a major component of the waste stream of all municipalities of Ontario. Plastic packaging, in particular, has been shown to be a health hazard to birds, animals and sea life, as well as being almost impossible to dispose of safely. When put in landfill sites, plastics last virtually for ever. When incinerated, harmful emissions are forthcoming.

My question for the minister is, what is the government doing to reduce the amount of excess packaging being produced in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The first and foremost initiative we are taking, which I know the member would be enthusiastic about, is that of recycling a number of products in Ontario to reduce it. As we proceed along the direction of the curbside recycling, we will see more and more of those products. In fact, now there are markets opening up for recycled products of a plastic nature as well as of another nature. That is one initiative that can be helpful, but we are also working with other jurisdictions to ensure that unnecessary packaging is not utilized.

As the member knows, the primary responsibility in this regard is with the federal jurisdiction because it deals with the entire country of Canada, and it is difficult to have different packaging laws in each of the provinces. Certainly, it is not outside the realm of possibility. I think the new initiative the member will see, as we get further into 1988 and 1989, in a number of provinces, not just our province—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: —is elimination of certain kinds of packaging, reduction in other kinds of packaging and recycling of certain kinds of packaging.

Mr. McGuinty: Biodegradable packaging is now required in 11 states of the United States and in Italy, and Quebec is considering a similar law. In addition, the regional municipality of Durham recently called for the use of biodegradable garbage bags, for which it is to be commended.

1440

Is the minister aware that we have the opportunity to create thousands of new jobs and create a viable industry here in Ontario, producing biodegradable packaging? Could the minister tell us what the government is doing to help

municipalities promote innovative waste reduction programs?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We consult on an ongoing basis with the various municipalities around the province to make those kind of suggestions. We have our technology transfer conference in December of each year, where items of this kind can be discussed. We have waste management seminars that take place. They are very helpful in that regard.

The member makes reference to the work the member for Durham West (Mrs. Stoner) has done, working along with her council, in dealing with biodegradable bags. We also have the member for Oxford (Mr. Tatham), who has made a number of suggestions in this regard.

Once again, I think the member will see us moving in that direction, because the suggestions he makes are going to be valuable in terms of the amount of material that is going into landfill sites and will reduce it. In addition to that, I think the member would be assured that it eliminates some of the problems people contemplate when they see the possibility of an incinerator being constructed.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the honourable member would like to take a little rest. I will recognize the member for Sudbury East with a new question.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Miss Martel: In the short time I have, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. It concerns a very disturbing situation occurring in asbestos removal sites in the province. The problem is that workers removing asbestos are not being trained on how to use their equipment properly, nor is their equipment being checked to ensure that they are not going to suffer from asbestosis in the future.

In our case in particular, the gentleman who worked for this company for seven years removing asbestos recently went on a course sponsored by a firm which inspects removal sites. He took his respirator, which he has worked with for five solid years, and discovered to his horror that it was indeed defective and that the respirator, which is supposed to be checked every single day, had not been for five years.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Miss Martel: I want to ask the minister, in the light of this really horrifying situation, what his ministry intends to do to enforce the regulations present under the Occupational Health and Safety Act so that workers in this province are protected.

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I recall the other day, at the end of question period, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) said, "That is a very long question and I hope it would be asked again," so he could provide an answer. I will try to answer as much of the member for Sudbury East's question as I can today. Obviously, I cannot respond to the specific details of the case she brings up.

The member will know that about a year and a half ago the Ministry of Labour passed very extensive new regulations to ensure that asbestos within the province was removed in a safe way so as not to endanger the health of workers. Those regulations are some of the most stringent right across North America. I am satisfied that those regulations will deal with all situations within the province where asbestos is found and is to be removed.

If there is a specific instance where a specific individual was the victim—and indeed not having a respirator that works would be a case of victimization—I would be glad to tell the member for Sudbury East I will look into that specific situation.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a short petition on Sunday shopping from Etobicoke-Rexdale.

Interjections.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am surprised the member for Dovercourt (Mr. Lupusella) is leaving, since he has housing responsibilities in that area.

Mr. Speaker: I remind the member that this is the time for petitions. Would you place your petition?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I could not help hearing an interjection. I will try to ignore them.

The petition reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I presume these members from Etobicoke-Lakeshore would all like to come to public hearings at the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: I remind all members that I have called for petitions. In case there are petitions, I am sure you all want to hear them instead of having private conversations.

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition addressed "To the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Ontario" and it bears 215 names. It is from St. Brides Church, an Anglican Church on Clarkson Road in Mississauga. My signature is included. It is in opposition to Sunday shopping.

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition signed by 12 residents of Etobicoke-Rexdale, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

"We the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I am affixing my name thereto.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO SAVINGS OFFICE

Mr. Runciman: I have a petition from approximately 160 residents of the Lyndhurst area.

"To the Lieutenant Governor in Council and to the attention of the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître)." It is asking the minister to consider the establishment of a Province of Ontario Savings Office branch in the village of Lyndhurst to fill any vacancy left by the closure of the chartered bank there several months ago.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three

political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

It is signed by approximately 15 people in my riding.

1450

Mr. Pope: I have a petition from the Islington Evangel Centre, Rexdale, which I have signed. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province

and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be

together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mrs. Marland: This petition does not have anything to do with Sunday shopping. It was sent to me by the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, 41 George Street South, Suite 303, Brampton, Ontario. They have enclosed a portion of 1,200 petitions from the concerned teachers in the Dufferin-Peel unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association regarding the lack of capital funding by the provincial government. The petition in part reads:

"The Dufferin-Peel separate school board is in drastic need of capital funding for the year 1988-89. Present school buildings are bursting at the seams. Projected growth indicates that the system will expand by 4,000 additional students next year. The provincial government must show its commitment to quality education by providing the capital funds required. These funds are a realistic need, not a luxury.

"Quality education deserves an adequate physical environment. The students, parents and teachers of Dufferin-Peel are entitled to no less."

I submit that petition to the Attorney General (Mr. Scott).

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Reville: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the govern-

ment's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

There are eight petitioners who have affixed their signature to this petition, and I have endorsed my name thereon.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario,

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a 'local option' for municipalities, and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region, and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more—and not less—difficult to enforce; and

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"Because the government's stated intention is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour with regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment, because it provides them only with a right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are 'reasonable' are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a

refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

Obviously signed by two workers who know what the act is all about, and I affix my signature to it.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, you will be glad of a little diversion and to hear about another subject with my first petition. This is addressed to the provincial government of Ontario and reads as follows:

"Whereas our hospitals need funds in order to serve all the public better; they need more beds, equipment and space; and

"Whereas St. Catharines and Thorold councils are contemplating adding to our property taxes for the next 10 years, which we object to, as there are so many on fixed incomes, low incomes and many unemployed;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario to divert funds from Wintario and other provincial and national lotteries for capital and operating expenses of our hospitals."

This is signed by 39 people, the majority of whom live in the historic hamlet of Beaver Dams in the city of Thorold. I have signed this petition and will send it to the table.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Swart: To get back to the subject which is of so much concern in this province, the opposition to Sunday shopping, I have a petition which reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in

the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This is signed by four people, all of whom are from the Toronto area. I shall sign this and then send it with a page to the table.

Ms. Bryden: I am pleased to participate in the democratic process of bringing petitions from residents of the province to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature. I have the honour to present today a petition in opposition to extending Sunday shopping. I have eight petitioners who beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario'; and

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"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I support this resolution and am pleased to sign it.

Mr. Pouliot: I have a petition signed by 11 very distinguished residents of Ontario who are also parishioners at the Olivet United Church. The Speaker might be aware that the Olivet United Church parish is under the spiritual leadership of the Rev. Charles Beaton and the Rev. Lloyd Stapleton. The petition reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, do petition as follows:

"1. Since we are in agreement with the present restrictions concerning Sunday store openings, we petition that these restrictions be retained and that they be enforced by the government of Ontario.

"2. We strongly feel that legislation governing Sunday store openings should be uniform across the province and that such legislation is the responsibility of the provincial government. To authorize municipalities to legislate Sunday store opening bylaws would set one municipality against another, creating bitter divisions between municipalities and mass confusion in the marketplace. Therefore, we petition that the authority for Sunday store opening legislation not be delegated to municipalities."

I have endorsed the petition.

Mr. Farnan: I have a petition signed by 19 citizens, parishioners of the Melrose United Church of Hamilton. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the...government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the...government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Continue on please.

Mr. Farnan: It is extremely difficult when one is participating in the House proceedings, when one is interrupted so rudely by the government.

The Deputy Speaker: Continue your petition please.

Mr. Farnan: I am anxious that the voice of the people of this parish is heard by the government, but obviously it does not want to listen.

The Deputy Speaker: Let us hear their voice.

Mr. Farnan: "We urge the government"—and now it is listening—"not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business

Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I am adding my name to the citizens of Melrose United Church on their petition against the local option for Sunday shopping.

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Mr. Charlton: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario;

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a 'local option' for municipalities, and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region, and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more—and not less—difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment, because it provides them only with a right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employ-

ment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are 'reasonable' are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

This petition is signed by two residents of the city of Toronto, and I have added my name to the petition.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Callahan: I have a very important petition that perhaps will take the monotony out of the filibuster going on on the other side. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"As concerned teachers in the Dufferin-Peel unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, we believe that the Dufferin-Peel separate school board is in drastic need of capital funding for the year 1988-89. Present school buildings are bursting at the seams. Projected growth indicates that the system will expand by 4,000 additional students next year. The provincial government must show its commitment to quality education by providing the capital funds required. These funds are a realistic need, not a luxury.

"Quality education deserves an adequate physical environment. The students, parents and teachers of Dufferin-Peel are entitled to no less."

This petition was signed by a large number of people, and it also has my signature.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Morin-Strom: I would like to join the member for Brampton South in participating in

the democratic process and representing our citizens in presenting petitions on issues of concern to the people of Ontario.

I have a petition here signed by 53 members of the congregation of Westside Baptist who are concerned about the issue of Sunday working. The petition reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said"—we are going to have to change that.

Mr. Black: You can't change it.

Mr. Brown: You can't change it.

Mr. Morin-Strom: "Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario"—

Mr. Mackenzie: He just lost his place. What are you talking about?

Mr. Morin-Strom: I do not want to repeat the same thing. Do you want me to start repeating the whole thing over and over or do you want me to get on with it?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Please continue.

Mr. Morin-Strom: "Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its

members desire; and "Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and"—

Mr. Black: Sault Ste. Marie?

Mr. Morin-Strom: What about Sault Ste. Marie?

Mr. Black: Does it have Sunday shopping?

The Deputy Speaker: Please read the petition.

Mr. Morin-Strom: "Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together"—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Read the petition, please.

Mr. Morin-Strom: "We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I am pleased to have added my name to this petition and hope that the government will act a bit more judiciously on this matter in the future.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Allen: Once more, as a slight change of pace, I have a petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is my constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of my preference; and

"Whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

I have signed that petition and send it, with 66 signatures, to the table of the clerk.

I have another petition, Mr. Speaker, and before I read this into the record, perhaps you would take the member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan), who has now departed, and instruct him on the proper meaning of the word "filibuster." This is not a filibuster; this is a reading of petitions from Her Majesty's loyal subjects on matters that gravely concern them. In no way can this be considered a filibuster.

The Deputy Speaker: Are you going to read the petition?

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RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Allen: The petition is from 30 people who live in the westerly reaches of the Metropolitan area, who petition the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province, and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

As I say, this is signed by 30 persons, and I have affixed my signature to it and I send it to the Clerk's table.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Carrothers: "To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is my constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of my preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest extent, without prejudice or harassment."

That is signed by 75 individuals.

HEURES OUVRABLES

RETAIL STORE HOURS

M. Philip: Monsieur le Président, cela me fait plaisir de présenter une pétition contre l'ouverture des magasins le dimanche.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

It is signed by members of Islington Evangel Centre, which is on Albion Road at Martin Grove in the riding of Etobicoke-Rexdale, and I have signed the petition in agreement with my constituents.

Miss Martel: I have a petition signed by my staff members, who do not believe this government is choosing the right approach at this point in time as it concerns Sunday shopping. They are very much against the government's stated intentions in this regard, so they beg leave to petition the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation concerning the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to

municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

It is a pleasure for me to endorse this petition.

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition signed by 11 residents of Hamilton, including three distinguished clergy.

Mr. Philip: Who are the clergy then?

Mr. Wildman: Father John Ivarichi, Father Peter Tomaino and Rev. Edward Koroway.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is not necessary to read the names of the people who have signed it.

Mr. Wildman: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have affixed my name to that petition.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical and spiritual health.

We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have a further petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for

time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

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"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. Reville: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child

care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family, which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holi-

days Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I am pleased to say this is signed by six residents of the city of Toronto.

Mr. Swart: I have a petition addressed:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to 'wide-open' Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

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"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This is signed by two Ontario residents, one from Chelmsford and the other from Hanmer. I have signed this petition and will send it to the table.

Ms. Bryden: I am proud to present the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario a petition from two residents of the province who are exercising their right to bring to the attention of the House their concerns about the proposed local-option Sunday shopping law which the government has indicated it intends to bring in. It is no-option local option.

Mr. Speaker: The member has the right to present the petition, not debate it herself.

Ms. Bryden: The petitioners beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario;

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a 'local option' for municipalities, and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more—and not less—difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment, because it provides them only with a right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are 'reasonable' are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a

considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I support this petition.

Mr. Pouliot: I have a petition signed by 15 distinguished residents of Ontario who are also parishioners of the Melrose United Church under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Peter Wyatt.

I realize that time is of the essence so suffice it to mention that they wish to petition the government of Ontario against local option for Sunday shopping.

Mr. Charlton: I have a petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open

Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

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"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I will add my name to this petition.

BUDGET

Hon. R. F. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: As you know, 13 days ago I informed the House of my expectation to present the 1988 budget to the House on this day. The formal notice of motion is in your Orders and Notices, and I would ask unanimous consent that we end this order of business, as is customary, and give me an opportunity to present the 1988 budget.

Mr. Speaker: The members of the House have heard the request of the Treasurer. Is there unanimous consent?

Negatived.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, since I have the responsibility for the confidentiality of the budget—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On a point of order? What's going on?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: This is a point of order; I am on a point of order. Since I have that responsibility—

Some hon. members: Sit down.

Mr. Speaker: A new point of order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Since I have that responsibility, I have no alternative but to use standing order 35(d) and hereby table the budget in the House. Copies are available to all members. Those members of the press, political observers and people from the business community who are examining the budget at the present time will be let out of their lockup, and we can proceed with the business of the House as you otherwise order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: We will continue with the previous order of business.

PETITIONS (continued)

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Charlton: I have a petition signed by 13 residents of Etobicoke:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have added my name to this petition.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a petition from 15 residents from various communities across Ontario expressing concerns about Sunday opening legislation. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have endorsed this petition and submit it for the consideration of this government.

Mr. Speaker: There seems to be a little confusion in the House. The budgets are being distributed and that probably is creating a little commotion, but there is also other commotion

and noise. I wonder if the private conversations could be kept down.

Mr. Farnan: I have here a petition signed by five residents of Ontario. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario,' and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common

time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

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"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness to them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have attached my name to this petition and I am handing it to the page.

Mr. Allen: I have here in my hand a petition from St. Margaret's Anglican Church of Hamilton West with 54 names attached to it.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will certainly lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have affixed my name to this petition and send it to the Clerk's table.

Mr. Philip: I have a petition signed by parishioners of St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church in Rexdale, part of the riding I represent.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

It is signed, as I said, by members of St. Andrews parish in Rexdale and I have also signed it. These people are quite willing to appear before a committee of the Legislature, if the Liberal government would allow them to.

Mr. Reville: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: There appears to be some odour other than the ordinary emissions in the chamber at the moment. I wonder if the Speaker would care to comment.

The Deputy Speaker: It is being investigated and we may continue until we get orders to the contrary.

Miss Martel: I have two short petitions which I would like to present at this time to the House.

The first is signed by 12 residents of Etobicoke, Ontario and it reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province—"

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I wonder if during the time the problem is being investigated we might forgo the presence of the pages and the use of their service for their security.

The Deputy Speaker: The pages will please take their leave.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: There appears to be some question as to whether the chamber is safe at the moment. Might we adjourn for 10 minutes and then resume when we have some idea of what is happening?

The Deputy Speaker: We shall adjourn for 10 minutes until we can get some answer to this.

The House recessed at 4:20 p.m.

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Mr. Laughren: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Before the member makes his point of order, I would like to announce that we have investigated the situation. We have found nothing abnormal but, as a precautionary measure, we have turned off the air conditioning, so it may end up being a bit warm in here. The member for Nickel Belt has a point of order.

Mr. Laughren: Perhaps it is a point of information, Mr. Speaker. We on this side are not surprised at all that you could not find the source of the odour. We think it is the budget.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Shall we resume petitions?

Miss Martel: Picking up from where I left off, I would like to reintroduce two petitions, actually, both of them signed by 12 residents of Etobicoke, Ontario. The first one reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned,"—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Is the member's mike turned on?

Mr. Laughren: Maybe she's plugged into the air conditioner.

The Deputy Speaker: Please proceed.

Miss Martel: "We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows."

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Oh, there it is.

Miss Martel: I know. It gets better.

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all

people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have signed my name to endorse that.

The second petition is:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

Again, I have endorsed my signature to that.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Reville: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday

shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This has been signed by 20 petitioners, and I have endorsed my name thereon.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported

unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'"—I wonder if they all did—"and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and"—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Malarkey.

Mr. Mackenzie: Cut out the interjections and it will be easier to read.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Keep them coming, Vince. We don't mind. Your interjections are so much fun.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: You guys are crazy.

Mr. Mackenzie: Well, we could switch to the lousy budget we just had, but—

An hon. member: How do you know?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We saw it.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mackenzie: "Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I am pleased to affix my signature to the 20 names that are on this petition from the community right around my constituency.

Mr. Fleet: I have a petition. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the NDP demands unfettered public hearings into the government's municipal option Sunday shopping bill while at the same time refusing to allow those public hearings to begin through cheap, theatrical, delaying tactics;

"And whereas the NDP has been demanding action from the government in housing, education, social services and health care in a budget that it now says it will not permit to be introduced;

"And whereas it is patently ridiculous and hypocritical for a party whose members shop on Sundays to argue that Sunday shopping is wrong;

"And whereas it is idiocy to suggest only those who oppose Sunday shopping love their families;

"And whereas it is hypocrisy for a party that claims to represent all working people to demand that the one third of Ontario employees who now work on Sundays remain in permanent servitude to the two thirds who don't;

"And whereas the NDP claims to be speaking for all the people of Ontario whereas it is in fact speaking only for those who oppose Sunday shopping and sucking up to the trade union movement like it always does;

"And whereas the NDP appears to be labouring under the false delusion that it won the September 10 provincial election;

"And whereas the NDP's concept of official opposition status appears to be now reduced to the 'do what we say or we'll hold our breath until we turn blue' school of logic;

"And whereas the NDP now appears to be practising the same sort of arrogant pigheadedness of which it repeatedly accuses the Liberals;

"And whereas it is the obligation of the government to respect the rights of minority parties only so long as they use, rather than abuse, the rules of parliamentary democracy;

"And whereas taxpayers' money is clearly being wasted by this unmitigated farce;

"And whereas the NDP appears to be afraid of putting this fight before a legislative committee where all sides can seek to influence the will of the government;

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"And whereas Bob Rae is not normally this stupid;"—that is the part I have the greatest difficulty with—

"Therefore we call upon Bob Rae and his tiny band of not-so-merry men and women to realize they are not necessarily the fonts of all moral wisdom on every last issue in the universe;

"And failing that, we call upon Bob Rae and the NDP to realize that on some issues, you can't suck and blow wind at the same time;

"And failing that, we ask them to at least realize they are becoming derivative and boring."

It is signed by Lorrie Goldstein, and I have added my signature as well.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I am wondering if the member would have the guts to repeat his comments about sucking up to the trade unions once again so we know where he is really coming from.

Mr. Fleet: It's in Hansard.

An hon. member: Hansard will record it for posterity.

Mr. Velshi: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Is the honourable member trying to say that an Ontario petitioner has not got a democratic right to say what he wants in this province?

Mr. Mackenzie: It wasn't a petition.

Mr. Swart: I want to say that of course it is difficult to suck and blow at the same time. That party over there does pretty well, because they blow one day and suck the next.

I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an

added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This is signed by two people from the Windsor area, and I am affixing my signature to it, as required by the rules of procedure.

Ms. Bryden: I am honoured to perform my function in this democratic process of presenting a petition from 24 residents of Metropolitan Toronto who wish to petition the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on the subject of opposition to Sunday shopping and Sunday working. I will read the petition:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I endorse this petition and am pleased to sign it.

Mr. Charlton: I have, first, a petition signed by 19 residents of Etobicoke:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have affixed my signature to this petition as well.

Second, I have a petition from two residents of Toronto:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario;

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a 'local option' for municipalities, and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules

in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more—and not less—difficult to enforce; and

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"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment, because it provides them only with a right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are 'reasonable' are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I have also affixed my signature to this petition.

Mr. Farnan: I have a petition that was submitted from Kitchener. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the govern-

ment's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have pleasure in adding my name to this petition, particularly as the Liberal members representing these Waterloo ridings, although they personally say they are opposed to Sunday shopping, nevertheless are not bringing forward the wishes of the people in their ridings.

Mr. Philip: As the Attorney General's (Mr. Scott) blood pressure goes into further remission, I beg to present yet another petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows"—

Interjection.

Mr. Philip: General Bullmoose is interrupting me again, the senator from wherever.

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province, and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

It is signed by a number of residents of the riding of Etobicoke-Rexdale, including, I notice, a few of my neighbours on Silverstone Drive in Rexdale.

Miss Martel: It is a pleasure for me to continue to participate in this democratic process. I have yet another petition, of course, addressed, "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario." It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to

municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have affixed my name to this petition as endorsement.

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Mr. Allen: I beg leave to read into the record a petition bearing 17 names from Melrose United Church in Hamilton, which is under the spiritual oversight of the Rev. Dr. Peter Wyatt, one of our city's most thoughtful clergymen.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holi-

days Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Madam Speaker, I have affixed my name to this petition according to the rules, and I send it to the Clerk at the table.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have another petition which has been signed by a number of residents of the province concerning the issue of Sunday closing.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercialization of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I hope that the province will take serious consideration of this petition. I have affixed my name to it, and I send it for consideration.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have one or two petitions I would like to bring forward at this time. The first is from a number of constituents of Etobicoke-Rexdale, and it is on Sunday shopping.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health.

"We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I will add my signature to it.

The second petition has seven names from the people of Scarborough. It begins as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I affix my signature.

Mr. B. Rae: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is signed by about 20 people who are members of the Humbercrest United Church, with the words: "Your help against working Sundays is needed. Thank you."

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail

employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

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"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I put my signature on it, Madam Speaker, and present it to you accordingly.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have another petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its views that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and

to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to

retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

It is signed by eight residents of Hamilton, Caledonia, Oakville, Dundas and Burlington.

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition which is signed by 33 residents of Etobicoke and Rexdale. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I am signing my name to this as well.

Mr. Reville: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

There are seven petitioners who have signed the petition, all of whom appear to be neighbours of the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip). I have appended my name thereto.

I will read another petition, if the page would like to stick around. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in

the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

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"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

There are nine petitioners who have signed the document, and I have appended my name thereto.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am pleased to continue to participate in this debate and that I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario:

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a 'local option' for municipalities, and therefore dumps responsibility for the regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans none the less to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region, and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more—and not less—difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intent is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment, because it provides them only with a right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether individual and/or company actions are 'reasonable' are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a

considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I am pleased to affix my signature to this petition and pass it down to the table.

Ms. Bryden: I am pleased to participate in this democratic process of bringing the opinions of the residents of Ontario to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

I have a petition signed by nine residents of two streets in Scarborough, Painted Post Drive and Shropshire Drive. They petition as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely

to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have signed the petition and I support it.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a petition with quite a number of signatures on it. The petition has about 40 signatures in total of people from right across Ontario. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I will affix my signature to it and hope the government will take it into serious consideration.

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Mr. Charlton: I have a petition that is signed by 41 residents of Etobicoke.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have affixed my signature thereon.

I have a second petition signed by nine residents of Hamilton:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have affixed my signature thereon as well.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have been waiting for this moment to introduce this particular petition, because the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) has just come back to the chamber. This is one from a fairly large number of people from the Etobicoke area, which I know the member for Sudbury is vaguely aware of.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I will affix my name to it. I invite the Legislature to participate in a full and open hearing.

I do have another one from a group of people who participated in a forum on education here in the city of Toronto just this last week. It is entitled as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987"—parenthetically, members will note that was before the last election—"as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

As I say, it is signed by a number of people interested in education matters in the city of Toronto.

THE TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

Mr. Faubert: I am pleased to participate in this process by the submission of this urgent petition and to put it on the record of this Legislature in the spirit of equity to our working press:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the city of Toronto is driven by a desire to excel to world-class status or, failing that, to make a lot of money trying;

"And whereas the city of Toronto has achieved world-class recognition being chosen as the site of an international economic summit meeting in June;

"And whereas the city of Toronto seeks to cleanse itself of all smudges so as to present an acceptable face to world leaders;

"And whereas the province of Ontario has demonstrated a willingness to co-operate in

presenting the best possible face by introducing a law to suspend the right to strike of workers on the conference site;

"And whereas the New Democratic Party has suspended its right to represent workers by endorsing this legislation without a peep of protest;

1750

"And whereas hockey is recognized as a world-class sport;

"And whereas the Toronto Maple Leafs continue to be of doubtful use as a demonstration of Canada's prowess in this sport;

"Therefore we, the undersigned, do beg leave to request that the Legislature of Ontario enact legislation to rename the said hockey team the Hamilton Maple Leafs and provide for the necessary transfer of the National Hockey League franchise forthwith."

That is signed by the author, Orland French, and I have affixed my name to that.

Mr. Wildman: I do not know whether they should send the franchise to Hamilton or just change the name to the Toronto Make-Me-Laugh.

The Deputy Speaker: The petition reads?

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition signed by 27 residents of Etobicoke, Mississauga, Rexdale, Agincourt, Newmarket, Woodbridge and Weston which is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province, and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday" shop-until-you-drop "legislation."

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province

and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I will sign that and I have one other. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and

strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We therefore urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

The petition is signed by 25 residents of Hamilton, Ontario.

Mr. Allen: I have a petition here from Stanley Avenue Baptist Church, which is just a few blocks away from my constituency office. Twenty of the members of that church wish to petition the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have affixed my signature to this, according to the rules of the House, and I send this petition to the Clerk's table.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I seek unanimous consent to move to motions to deal with one motion.

Agreed to.

MOTION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that, notwithstanding standing order 71(h), the requirement for notice be waived with respect to ballot items 15, 16 and 18, standing in the names of the members for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), Oakville South (Mr. Carrothers) and Parry Sound (Mr. Eves).

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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- | | |
|---|--|
| Adams, Peter (Peterborough L) | Fontaine, Hon. René , Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L) |
| Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP) | Fulton, Hon. Ed , Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L) |
| Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L) | Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L) |
| Beer, Charles (York North L) | Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C. , Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L) |
| Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L) | Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP) |
| Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L) | Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L) |
| Bradley, Hon. James J. , Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L) | Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP) |
| Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC) | Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC) |
| Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP) | Hart, Christine E. (York East L) |
| Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L) | Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L) |
| Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP) | Hošek, Hon. Chaviva , Minister of Housing (Oakwood L) |
| Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L) | Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC) |
| Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L) | Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC) |
| Caplan, Hon. Elinor , Minister of Health (Oriole L) | Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP) |
| Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L) | Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L) |
| Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP) | Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G. , Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L) |
| Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L) | Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L) |
| Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L) | Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L) |
| Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L) | Kwinter, Hon. Monte , Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L) |
| Conway, Hon. Sean G. , Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L) | Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP) |
| Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L) | LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L) |
| Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP) | Leone, Laureano (Downsview L) |
| Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L) | Lipsett, Ron (Grey L) |
| Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC) | Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L) |
| Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC) | MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L) |
| Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC) | Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP) |
| Curling, Hon. Alvin , Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L) | Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L) |
| Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L) | Mancini, Hon. Remo , Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L) |
| Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L) | Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC) |
| Eakins, Hon. John F. , Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L) | Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP) |
| Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A. , Speaker (Perth L) | Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L) |
| Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L) | McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC) |
| Elston, Hon. Murray J. , Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L) | McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L) |
| Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L) | McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L) |
| Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC) | McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L) |
| Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP) | McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC) |
| Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L) | McLeod, Hon. Lyn , Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L) |
| Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L) | Miclash, Frank (Kenora L) |
| Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L) | Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L) |
| Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L) | |

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
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*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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CARON
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No. 50

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Thursday, April 21, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 21, 1988

The House met at 10:01 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

SUNSET REVIEW

Mr. Harris moved resolution 22:

That, in the opinion of this House, all future legislation which would establish an agency, board, commission or regulatory system or create new direct expenditures or tax expenditures must contain a sunset provision which would, after a specified period of time, require mandatory review of the original legislation by a committee of this House. The committee would be mandated to report to this House on the impact of the legislation, the degree to which the program and policy objectives have been met and make recommendations as to whether the legislation, regulations, program or agency should be continued, terminated or amended.

Further, this House is of the opinion that all existing legislation which has established an agency, board, commission or regulatory system or created new direct expenditures or tax expenditures should, over the next five years, be reviewed by a committee of this House with the mandate indicated above.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Harris has moved the resolution standing in his name. The honourable member has up to 20 minutes for his presentation and may reserve any portion of it for the windup.

Mr. Harris: I am pleased to see the parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer here bright and early this morning. I am sure he was out celebrating the unorthodox introduction of the budget yesterday. Some other party must have been celebrating it too. I am not sure why.

I am pleased to have a few moments today to talk about my resolution and to explain the resolution to the House and the reason for it. First of all, very briefly, I want to make sure everybody understands and that everybody is clear as to what I am asking for.

This is the first half of the resolution. I am asking that when a program is created by the government, any program that is created to spend

money and, presumably, to have a desired objective—for example, out of yesterday's budget there is a proposal to create a new program in the field of housing; presumably, that program will require legislation or it will require regulation or it will require something to implement it.

What I am saying is that attached to that new program which will come forward this year is the stipulation that would require over a specified period of time—normally, on sunseting five years seems to be a standard time—that would carry with it a proviso that within, let us say five years' time, it would be reviewed by a committee of the Legislature. That would force the ministry to explain publicly how well the program is doing: is it meeting its objectives; would those objectives be met without the program. If the committee came to the latter conclusion, I think the obvious conclusion this Legislature would want to come to is to make a recommendation that it quit wasting \$50 million a year because it is not doing any good.

If the program is very successful and there is the demand for more money, and the committee determines that, gee, it really has been a good program—it has created the desired benefits—the committee might recommend that more money be put into that program.

Having it go to a committee ensures two things. One, it ensures that the review is done. It ensures that programs do not sit there on the shelf, that when budget time comes along—I think by now most of you who are involved with ministries in any capacity realize what happens over there. Everybody, particularly at the top end of the civil service, gets so caught up in the day to day that the amount of time spent getting the minister's briefing book ready so he does not look like a dummy when he is asked a question is astronomical.

I might add that maybe that is one of the things we should review, because the amount of money we waste trying to figure out what question we are going to ask, and making sure we know the answer before we ask it so we can try to make the minister look like a dummy, is astronomical too. It may be one program we might want to review.

That is really what I am asking in the first half of the resolution. Is that expenditure achieving

the desired result? I know, and I am quite certain, that there are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of expenditure programs that do not get the proper look, that do not get the proper review.

This also alerts the public because it will go to a committee, and if it is a housing program, for example, it could invite input. In the case of the program I am talking about it could invite input from tenant groups, from those interested in housing, from builders' associations, asking: "What do you think of the program? How has it been working?"

That is what I am asking in the first half of the resolution. I think it is a responsible way to proceed. I served notice last fall that whenever new programs were coming forward I would be introducing amendments asking them to be sunsetted. The first one was the program brought forward by the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) on—what the heck was that one? I moved the amendment. That was the employee share ownership plan. Sorry, it was the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître), setting up the employee share ownership plan, which involved a tax expenditure. It cost the government money by virtue of a tax expenditure.

For those of you who do not understand what tax expenditure means, some people call them loopholes. Other people call them incentives to the tax system. That is what we are talking about.

I moved that amendment and the minister said yes and accepted it. Right now, I think the program is appropriate for today, I think it will work; but let us face it, experience sometimes tells us that the program does not always meet exactly the objectives we set out. I think that was a responsible position to take. I guess what I am saying is that we should do that for them all.

The second part of the resolution deals with all of those currently on the book, all of those that are there now, such as the rent review legislation and some of the housing expenditures over the past few years. It might be interesting to decide whether that is a good way to spend money. Is it achieving the desired goal?

For anyone in North Bay or northern Ontario who is watching, I have said to this House on two or three occasions that some of the grants that are given to companies in this booming economy are not necessary. I am not going to name names, but I am willing to put my own riding and the city of North Bay, if you like, on the line and on the table. I know for a fact that there are companies that have received grants from the federal government, the provincial government, the Northern Ontario Development Corp., the north-

ern Ontario regional development program, all the programs, that would have proceeded without those grants. It should be looked at.

1010

Nordev was a program that came in under the former government during a recession, during a time when everything was shrinking. Entrepreneurs were saying: "Hey, 22 per cent; am I going to invest? The market has gone down. I am going to invest?" So the government developed a program to say: "Gosh, we've got so many people unemployed. We think the economy will get better in the future, but in the mean time we will provide an incentive for you."

Is that program appropriate five years later? It may be, but maybe it should be modified some way. Maybe it is no longer necessary under certain examples. That is the kind of thing I am talking about.

Some will say: "That is a massive job. You are asking for everything to be referred." I am asking for everything to be referred because I do not want the civil service to be the ones that select which ones will be reviewed. I want us to determine that. I want the politicians to determine that.

If the resolution said five a year or 10 a year, there is a way that the 10 you review somehow or other are the ones the civil servants want you to review. If I was a civil servant, I would want you to review my good ones; I would not want you to review my bad ones. That is human nature, I understand that; as politicians, we all must understand that.

I want them all referred. If in a given year there is not time to do them all the committee will make the determination, but at least they will be referred to the committee and some comment will be passed on them and some will obviously be gone into in more depth than others.

I have said in five years because the first half of my resolution says that all future ones have a sunset provision. There may be some examples where two years or three years is appropriate, but the normal sunset provision is five years. If this resolution is accepted and implemented by the government, that means nothing happens for five years. I am saying that during that five year period we could gain a lot of experience starting to review all the existing ones. To me, it is a logical way to proceed.

I wanted to take a little bit of time to explain what my resolution is asking for. It is not asking that anything be cancelled. It is not asking that the government will be criticized. It is asking in a responsible way that politicians make decisions

on how money is spent. The Treasurer, the cabinet, the Premier and the ministers will still decide what they are going to do in their programs.

All I am saying is that some time, five years after they do it, surely we are entitled to take another look at it. When the legislation comes forward, we get a chance to debate it. I am saying let us look at it again five years hence and see whether it lived up to what the intention was. Was it a wise way of spending money? Are we getting value for that money or are there other ways that money could be spent to give more value to us?

I mention it because the budget came down yesterday and I want to talk about the budget a little bit. I have been one who has been very critical of government spending. I have been very critical that the increase in spending has been double and triple the rate of inflation every year for four years. It is over 40 per cent, 10 per cent a year on average over the last four years.

This is at a time when Ottawa had inherited that kind of spending. The members saw what happened in Ottawa. They used to spend about the same as we did on interest, about 10, 11 or 12 per cent. Pre-Trudeau, 10 per cent of the federal budget was spent on interest payments, and post-Trudeau 30 per cent, which is 30 cents of every tax dollar.

In Ontario, through that same period of time, it was 10, 11 or 12 cents and then interest rates went high, but it has been in that range and it has stayed in that range while the current administration has been in place. In the early Trudeau years it stayed there during the first few years too because the economy was good and there were massive tax increases. There was so much new spending in other areas that those percentages went up, so the interest percentage went along with it.

When you reach a downturn a lot of things happen. The government has broadened the base of spending in this budget. It has not, as the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke) tried to argue on the radio yesterday, invested in infrastructure.

I refer members to page 50 of this year's budget and page 50 of last year's budget, which talk about infrastructure. The increase in spending this year is \$3.1 billion. If members look on page 50 of last year's budget, \$2.7 billion was spent on capital. If they look on page 50 of this year's budget, \$2.8 billion is spent on capital.

With regard to the infrastructure—the hospitals, the schools, the universities and the

roads—we are taxing now when times are good and we are going to build up the infrastructure, and is that not good? The government has increased it by 3.7 per cent, construction costs are up by about 10 per cent; so in real terms, by inflation and by the cost of construction, it has cut the amount that is going into capital.

Operating expenditure, the thing I am talking about that is out of control, is up by over nine per cent, that is \$3 billion. So the government is up \$3.1 billion—\$3 billion operating and \$100 million capital.

Let me tell members where a lot of that \$100 million is: Government Services, \$190 million this year; last year, \$107 million. That is pretty well \$100 million. It is not quite, I appreciate that; but that is a large part of it.

Where is that money going with Government Services? That is going on out-of-control spending on building in my riding and in Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. That is where Government Services is spending money. We are not opposed to the transfer of jobs, but construction costs somewhere around \$100, \$110 or \$120 a square foot in Nipissing. The estimated cost of the building was \$13 million when it was announced to house the Ministry of Correctional Services. We cannot get any answers now, but the rumours out of the ministry are that it is over double. We will now be close to \$30 million. It will probably come in somewhere around \$300 a square foot.

There is something wrong with the spending; there is no control. Why is there no control and why do I know the example in North Bay? Because the government did not go to tender. It did not tender it, so it has no control. It put it out to project-manage. It invited proposals and then picked one and said: "Yes, you manage it. We will cost-plus you through the whole thing." That is not an efficient way to build a building. That is where the capital has gone.

A lot of the trades are in North Bay, we are doing all right out it; but if you blow double or triple the costs, I do not think it is the way people in North Bay want government money spent. I do not think it is the way the members want government money spent.

I mention that because sunsetting is one method to get after and look at what is happening on the spending, to try to control the spending of various programs of various ministries of the government. I mention as well that the minority report my caucus presented to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs before this budget came into place made a host of recommendations that would not have tied the

Treasurer's hands and would not have tied the government's hands.

Some of them would have, I acknowledge that. We called for a balanced budget in two years without tax increases. The Treasurer looks as if he is going to do it in two years all right, I think. The only problem is he is going to tax \$1.5 billion a year to put half a billion on the deficit. I guess we will have to wait to see what happens with the \$500 million he says he is going to find in in-year constraints.

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The Deputy Speaker: Will the member want to reserve some of his time at the end?

Mr. Harris: Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker. Did you jump that ahead? How is the time going so fast? I will try to save a minute.

I want to mention the minority report because we made a number of recommendations aimed at controlling expenditures and one of the recommendations we made was sunseting. There will be a small cost involved in sunseting, in having a committee do some review, but when the minister tells me that the ministry will have to spend some time and effort justifying the program, I cannot think of a better way to spend a few dollars.

I think in the long run the minister will save money. He will have an administration, a civil service, that says: "These guys are going to be watching what we do this year and next year. We are going to have to justify it. We are going to have to answer to them. So we had better be careful how we spend this money." It will help in that way, and I think it will help in eliminating some programs that become redundant or no longer necessary or no longer appropriate for the times.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this resolution. I hope that all members will support the principle of sunseting. There is nothing in this I am hung up on as to how it is implemented, save and except the mandatory part, that everything should go to a committee at some time. Let the politicians decide; not the government if it may be embarrassed, not the civil servants; let the politicians of this Legislature decide what will receive an in-depth review.

I will try to save my one minute if I can, Mr. Speaker, until the end.

Mr. Polsinelli: I would like to thank the member for Nipissing for giving me the opportunity this morning to discuss his private member's resolution, particularly after he brought to the attention of this House the delightful and effective budget that was delivered by the

Treasurer yesterday, a budget which strengthens Ontario's competitive position in the world economy and funds the government's priorities for quality health care, excellence in education and more affordable housing.

Mr. Philip: What does this have to do with sunseting?

Mr. Polsinelli: To answer the member for Etobicoke North, I believe—

Mr. Philip: Etobicoke-Rexdale. With all those petitions that have come from Etobicoke how could you forget?

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Polsinelli: Just commenting on the member for Nipissing's motion, I believe he dedicated well over half of his time to discussing the merits of yesterday's budget. I say again it is a budget which projects strong economic growth of 8.9 per cent for the province, a budget which allocates major investments in social and economic infrastructure, a budget which has manufacturing and research and development incentives and a budget which allocates as the government's strongest priorities our investment in health, education and housing.

We are not here today to discuss the merits of yesterday's budget, but rather to discuss the merits of the member for Nipissing's resolution, a resolution which, by the way, as the member for Nipissing quite aptly pointed out, requires that a new committee of the Legislature be established, a committee that would review all existing legislation dealing with direct expenditures, tax expenditures, a committee that would review every established agency of the government, every board and every commission.

Along with that, this new committee of the Legislature would also deal with future legislation in exactly the same way. Any new agency, new board or new commission which would be established would have to be reviewed by this new committee of the Legislature.

For the benefit of the members who may not know it, there are presently 248 scheduled agencies, boards and commissions within Ontario, and it may be of interest to some of the members to hear what some of these agencies do. Of these 248 agencies, 84 are advisory, 73 are operational and 91 are regulatory.

An advisory agency is one whose prime function is to provide information to the government that will assist in the development of policy or the ongoing delivery of programs. An operational agency—and there are 73 of these—is one whose main role is to provide goods and

services needed to implement approved government policy and programs. The 91 regulatory agencies are those whose prime function is to control public or private sector operations as authorized by government legislation, exercise a licence review function or exercise an appeal function with respect to both government and third-party decisions.

The vast majority of Ontario's agencies are assigned to schedule 1, which means that they generally must comply with the following conditions: they are funded out of the consolidated revenue fund or out of moneys collected from the public by means of levies; they are able to adhere to the management and administrative directives established by Management Board; they have their administrative support services provided by the responsible ministry unless the agency is of a sufficient size to enable it to provide its own support services; and they appoint staff under the Public Service Act.

These agencies, boards and commissions are found under the aegis of almost every ministry of the government. It should be noted, for example, that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Health each have 39 agencies, and members can understand the spread of the representation of these agencies. At the other end of the spectrum, for example, the office responsible for senior citizens' affairs has one agency, that being the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens.

The member for Nipissing would have us believe that there is presently no process in place to review the operation of the agencies, boards and commissions. He would have us believe that there is no process in place to review the government's commitment or allocation of tax expenditures. The reality of the situation, as the member for Nipissing should have known as a member of the previous government, was that, in March 1980, the government initiated a sunset review process for all advisory agencies existing at that time and for any agencies that were established thereafter.

As of May 1986, sunset review is required not only of the advisory agencies but also of any operational agencies not preparing corporate plans. In addition, it was recommended at that time that the mandate and indeed the need for regulatory agencies be reviewed wherever amendments to the agency's constituting instrument, which was usually legislation, were being considered or undertaken.

The member for Nipissing quite aptly pointed out the purpose and the need for sunset review,

and I agree with a lot of the comments he made in terms of the government or at least some body regularly reviewing the operations of the agencies, boards and commissions, and determining whether the programs they are delivering are effective programs, whether they are needed programs and whether, in fact, the programs should be continued, whether they should be changed and so on down the line. I agree with those comments.

But the question that the member is posing before us is whose responsibility it is for this sunset review operation, and I submit that while the Legislature has specific responsibilities in ensuring that the government runs, and criticizing the government and advising the government and dealing with particular pieces of legislation, it is primarily a governmental responsibility to ensure that the government's agencies, boards and commissions operate smoothly, that they deliver effective and efficient programs and that there is still a need and they are operating effectively.

It should be noted that in the process of review that has been established by the government—let me quote some figures—there are 31 sunset reviews, for example, scheduled for the 1988-89 year and an additional 18 for the 1989-90 year. During the past two years, 18 sunset reviews have already occurred, and one agency, the Ontario Sport Medicine and Safety Advisory Board, was terminated without a review.

Of the 18 reviews that occurred, 15 resulted in a decision to continue the agency and three resulted in a decision to terminate. Of the three agencies terminated, le Conseil des affaires francophones was replaced by the Ontario French Languages Services Commission; the functions of the Ontario Centre for Prevention of Child Abuse were divested to community-based transfer payment agencies; and the functions of the Ontario Manpower Commission were transferred to the Ministry of Skills Development, the Ministry of Treasury and Economics and the Ontario Manpower Commission.

The point is quite simply that this is a government responsibility and the government has undertaken that task. Management Board requires that agencies be reviewed on a regular basis. The ministry itself, under the direction of Management Board, is required to undertake a regular review of its agencies, boards and commissions.

If we talk about the responsibility members of the Legislature have in terms of this review, the member for Nipissing knows that there presently

is a committee of the Legislature, the standing committee on government agencies, which has been known to undertake reviews of certain agencies, boards and commissions, particularly since its mandate requires it to do so.

I have had the pleasure of sitting in that committee of the Legislature when we were reviewing a number of the government agencies and making recommendations to the government, and there is nothing wrong with that committee. At its whim, at its direction, it can require any agency of the government to appear before it and answer its questions.

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A fact of that public review before the existing committee of the Legislature—that is the standing committee on government agencies—is that if the committee in its wisdom feels that the purpose of the committee should be discontinued, that the committee's mandate should be changed, then it can do so; it can make a recommendation to government that this happen.

Quite frankly, I do not see the purpose of establishing a new committee that would be mandated and required to review all the existing 248 committees when an existing committee of the Legislature can presently perform that function, when an existing committee of the Legislature can presently require any agency or commission of government to appear before it and make recommendations to government. That committee does not have to do it, but it can do it and has a responsibility to do it.

I did want to deal with the issue of tax expenditures, but perhaps my colleague the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke), who will be speaking for our party next on this issue, can deal with the issue of tax expenditures. I do want to point out in my last minute that there is a problem with staffing of the committees of the Legislature, a problem I am sure most committee members are aware of.

I recall quite vividly that during the recess of the House, when many of the standing committees were performing their functions, reviewing certain pieces of legislation that were referred to them and other matters referred to them by the House, some of the opposition members had trouble manning all the committees they were required to attend at the same time. Many times I remember seeing members of the opposition party fluctuating or floating from committee to committee in order to have some representation in committees.

I submit that if a committee of this Legislature were established which would require all the 248

agencies, boards and commissions of government to be reviewed, effectively the opposition parties would have a very difficult time manning that committee in order for it to fulfil its mandate. So I will not be supporting the motion.

Mr. Philip: I would like to start my remarks by dealing with the last point made by the member for Yorkview. If he would read the resolution carefully, there is nothing in this resolution that necessarily suggests a new committee has to be established. What we are seeing in parliamentary reform is a system of estimates committees being set up. When that is in fact established, there may well be time in other committees, or indeed in one other committee, to establish the kind of procedure that is talked about by my colleague the member for Nipissing.

In principle, I agree with what the motion is trying to do. I have argued for sunset provisions in numerous committees of the Legislature and asked several committees to look at the need for a systematic sunset function. I am concerned about this resolution because I think it tries to do too much. The resolution is too broad. It gives so extensive a task to a committee, and it could be a committee that is already established in this House, as to make it virtually impossible for it to do anything really well.

What I am suggesting is that while the principle is good, maybe we have to look at the practicalities and work with that principle to establish and do exactly what the member is trying to do in the resolution. First of all, if this resolution is implemented, it will impact on a number of committees.

The standing committee on public accounts, in a certain sense, as a result of the reports of the Provincial Auditor, is involved in sunset. We have seen examples of this where the Provincial Auditor reports that something is still functioning even though the objectives are no longer being met.

In the standing committee on regulations and private bills we are now looking at a report whereby we would systematically, one by one, in terms of agencies or ministries, look at the regulations, with the appropriate staff making recommendations, with the appropriate research, and in fact make recommendations to the House concerning regulations that are no longer appropriate.

I think the first task anyone who is concerned about sunset has to look at is the need for a proper indexing system so that we know what the rules are. In the regulations committee, that was a major concern of those people who appeared

before us. In fact, people are governed by all kinds of rules and regulations, for the most part made by public servants, not by members of the Legislature and not even by the executive arm of government. Often there are regulations that the ministers or indeed the deputy ministers may not know about.

The first task has to be to develop in this computerized age a proper indexing system so that people can say: "What really affects me? What really affects my business? What really affects my interests?"

The motion talks about sunseting being spelled out in legislation. We have had that in some bills; some have worked and some have not. I think of some of the things that Mr. McMurtry introduced that did work. We did have proper review in some instances and we made some changes.

More recently, however, I think of the demolition bill by the Liberal government that was simply reintroduced, even though time and again members of this House pointed out how the bill was completely inadequate and left wide gaps open. But the government of this day decided to do nothing in terms of saving tenants from the fate of being out on the street because of people converting to condos.

The major problem I think we must address in sunset legislation is that if we are going to have a process it has to be objective and it has to try to remove itself from the political pressures.

An interesting article in the *Administrative Review* by Lewis Anthony Davis points out, "The burden of persuasion thus falls on program advocates to justify continuation, and program critics need not show why it should be terminated."

I think we want to lessen that. What we want to say is that there should be clearly set objectives for programs, and there should be a process whereby one can see whether those objectives are being met efficiently, and if not report back to the House with recommendations for termination or alteration.

What we must understand is that parliament, whether we like it or not, through its reforms is gradually moving a certain amount of power and decision-making away from the executive and into the hands of parliamentarians and legislative committees. I think that has been a healthy move, because society is becoming so complex that unless we have parliamentarians who will specialize and take time to look at certain areas, we are simply going to have the public service

running the show, with the ministers parroting out the work done for them by the public service.

I do not think that adopting the best of the congressional model is necessarily selling out the parliamentary system. In fact, I think it is simply a matter of living up to the 20th century, of living up to the complexities of a society like Ontario or like our federal government in Ottawa. It may not be necessary in Prince Edward Island, it may not be necessary in some of the smaller provinces, but I think it is necessary here.

I would love to talk about this at great length. I wish I had more than 10 minutes.

I think what we need is a committee that would look in a selective way, ministry by ministry or agency by agency, not taking on the whole world; not having an automatic inquiry which would be too large a project, but systematically looking at certain ministries in a post-audit way to find out whether the objectives are being met and making recommendations on whether certain programs should be changed, modified or cancelled.

We have to ask ourselves how this committee would function in terms of its interaction with the regulations committee, with the standing committee on public accounts and with the estimates committee that is being proposed. We also have to set up some fairly clear rules that say the programs should not be evaluated as to whether the objectives are right or wrong but rather as to whether the objectives are being met. If they are not being met, then why have the program in the first place?

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There are a number of criteria I suggest might be looked at. First, the requirement that programs articulate objectives, on the basis of which their performance will be judged; second, I think we should restrict the scope of review to determination of whether or not the individual programs have been achieved; third, we should incorporate the action-forcing mechanism, to provide an interim review of the extent to which the programs are meeting their objectives; fourth, we should allow the programs the opportunity either to correct their sins or face the possibility of being eliminated; last, I think the mandate of the decisions to continue, modify and terminate the programs must be based primarily on the results of the sunset reviews.

Such a committee would report back to the Legislature with the recommendations and then it would be up to the government of the day to decide whether or not to take the appropriate

action to terminate or modify that particular agency or program.

I suggest to members that while the process I am advocating might be more modest than the one advocated by the resolution, I think it is more achievable. I think it puts in greater objectivity. I think it takes away from the possibility we have seen where they have tried sunset legislation, of certain politicians trying to protect their own interests or those of their constituents over the greater need or overall need of the province or the state as a whole and of the taxpayers as a whole. I think it would blend the better features of the congressional oversight sort of system with the parliamentary system and executive system that we have under our parliamentary system of democracy.

I think if we were to move modestly in that direction, we would stand a better possibility of achieving the objectives rather than going in the very broad, large and sweeping manner my colleague has recommended.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member's time is up.

Mr. Philip: I will vote for the resolution simply because I like the principle, but I certainly would like to see it go to committee for some changes.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Your time is up. Thank you.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I rise to support the resolution of the member for Nipissing. I think it is time we considered such a resolution for the approximately 500 agencies, boards and commissions we have in this province to be more accountable.

It does not make sense to say we have not got the manpower to look into the commissions, agencies and boards to determine if, indeed, they still perform a function that is of value to this province. It is waste of money not to do so. We do not have to examine them all at once, but certainly over a period of years we could review them; as the member suggests every five years, certainly for the major ones.

I support the concept that a committee of this House could do that job quite nicely. We have such a committee and have had one in the past; I suppose we have had one for years. With a little more opportunity to devote specific time to these areas, I think we could achieve some positive results.

One of the problems we have to face is that, being imperfect legislators, we draft imperfect legislation. Shortly after legislation is drafted and comes to the attention of the public, we find

where we have made errors. That legislation should and could well be changed. If we had a mechanism built into it, as the member for Nipissing suggests, that possibly at the end of five years it be reviewed, that would make a lot of sense. I suppose because it makes sense, some members of the House will not support it.

I am pleased to speak on this resolution because I had entertained the thought of introducing a resolution to do something of a similar nature, dealing with one specific board, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. I had the opportunity this summer to sit on the standing committee on the Ombudsman and to review the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board's action in two specific cases. At that time it was brought to our attention that there are a couple of major problems with that piece of legislation. The Ombudsman concurred with our thoughts on it. The chairman of the board concurred. It is my feeling the committee was unanimous in its decision that changes should be made to that particular mandated board.

I had personal involvement in a criminal injuries case that has brought me a great deal of difficulty. It is a tragic example, but I think it highlights the concern I have with this particular piece of legislation. A young man, a constituent approximately 25 years old, approached me a few years ago about a problem he had. Apparently a paroled convict moved back into society, into his parents' home adjacent to this young man's home. The young man had a wife and two little children; I think one was three and the other one year old.

Within a day of the paroled convict moving into his parents' home, he went into the neighbour's house, picked up a butcher knife and slashed the young woman to death. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board said the young man had suffered no injuries. Indeed, he was not even at home so he had not suffered any injuries in the sense of personal, physical injuries. He lost his wife, the mother of his children, but the board's mandate says that he personally did not suffer any injuries. They said that if he needed psychiatric care, the board could compensate him for that. He was close to that point, but he did not require the psychiatric help. I do not think there are too many members in this Legislature who would not agree that this young man did suffer some injuries.

We cannot compensate someone for the loss of a loved one under this legislation; but there is a principle which applies for insurance. You buy insurance to protect your families in case of

death. In this instance, society, in my mind, bears a great deal of responsibility for allowing this individual out. He was a menace to society and should never have been allowed out. Within a day, he committed murder. Society owes that young man something.

In my opinion, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board should be reviewed by a committee of this Legislature, with input from the Ombudsman, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and all the people involved. I know that there would be a lot of support for changing the legislation to allow the board to compensate people such as this. I will not even discuss the extent of the compensation, but there definitely should be some compensation.

There are a couple of other areas of that bill that need to be amended and changed. As I mentioned earlier, it is my intention, when my turn comes for private members' hour, I think this fall, to introduce a resolution requesting that the House give consideration to making those changes or at least to setting up a committee that would review that piece of legislation. Having mentioned it now, maybe something will come about before fall. If not, I intend to follow that route.

I had an opportunity to glance at the list of the agencies, boards and commissions that are in existence today and we have several for which it is questionable if anyone knows what they are really doing. There is one I would like to bring to the attention of the House. It is the Soldiers' Aid Commission. It was established in 1960 and I certainly think it was set up to serve a specific purpose. If it was, and indeed is serving a purpose, then we should know what that is. If it was beneficial in 1960, I would think that, with the increases in the inflation factor, whatever was deemed appropriate in 1960 would not be in 1988. After the budget of the Treasurer yesterday, everyone can understand that there are many more cost factors built into living in society today than in 1960.

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I would assume that it would be an obligation on the part of this government and the members of this Legislature to consider reviewing commissions such as this to determine if indeed they are serving the purpose for which they were set up and intended. If not, then maybe the money that is being spent in this type of commission would be better spent on some other program that would aid these same people.

I think to update anything that goes back 10, 15, 20, 30 years only makes common sense, and

so I would appeal to the common sense of the members of this Legislature and vote to support the very reasonable and intelligent resolution presented by the member for Nipissing.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I would like to say initially that I appreciate the philosophy and the purpose behind this resolution. I think the concept is very admirable. I know there are examples as well in my own riding of corporate grants and other grants that are perhaps unnecessary, perhaps even wasted. I do not think we have anything in Kitchener as sordid as what was described concerning the building of the Ministry of Correctional Services in North Bay, but we certainly have some examples.

I cannot help but think, as I listen to the member for Nipissing, of his other hat. He is also the third party House leader. I cannot help but be aware that in the last five months he spent a great deal of time, unfortunately, as third party House leader trying to resist committee work for his caucus because of the fact that there were only 16 and now 17 members of that caucus. That is a reality, and when the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson) indicates that we do not have manpower, it is not a good excuse. The manpower we do not have is in the opposition benches to man committees to do the work.

The member for Nipissing knows this, because, with another hat on, he has also served on the standing committee on finance and economic affairs and he knows full well the time constraints that the finance committee has been working under because it has only two hours a week to sit. When we have asked for more time the time is not available, because there are not members from the third party to sit on the committee. Those are some basic problems that exist in trying to take every expenditure of the government, put it before a committee and suggest that that committee might give it a detailed review.

In place of that, his colleague the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling), I believe, was instrumental in bringing in the present sunset legislation, which brings these matters before the Management Board of Cabinet. Since 1986, the sunset review of Management Board has been a review not only of all advisory agencies but also of any operational agencies not preparing corporate plans.

"The mandate of and the need for regulatory agencies is to be reviewed whenever amendments to the agencies' constituting instrument are being considered or undertaken. The review is to assure the government that the structure of the agency remains appropriate to perform its

function and that this function is still something that should be done by the government. The rationale for sunset review is in this case not just termination. Any agency established with a short-term, clearly defined mandate should include a termination date which would then occur automatically, not requiring any formal sunset review documentation."

As well as that, it is my understanding that the Provincial Auditor has very wide functions in this regard and can also do sunseting investigations. During the past two years the Norm Sterling procedure, as the member for Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli) has indicated, has conducted some 18 sunset reviews, terminated three agencies and terminated one agency without even having a sunset review.

I would like to talk for a few minutes, if I may, about why I think this legislation in fact will not work and why it is not a good idea. Even though it may be good on paper, the fact of the matter is that when we have seen it done by legislative committees in other jurisdictions the bureaucracy still wins.

I am looking at a report on policy options which was done in 1986. It points out that, first, the fixed review date frequently becomes an excuse for delay. On a short schedule of, say five years—this mentions a three-year schedule; five years would be better—it seems either that the program has just been approved or else it is time to be resubmitted. Hence, desirable program modifications may be left to be reincorporated into the next round so that the agency can create its own reason for continuing to exist.

Second, the beneficiaries of the program are normally well aware that the program mandate is due to expire, and so they put off any good work that the program may be doing until the next time.

Third, it is just the case that weak programs, which may have a lot of administrative support and may have a lot of lobbyists who are in favour of them, get a lot of lobbying done to have the programs reinstituted while very good programs that are too busy doing the work do not have that happen.

Let us take a look at the experience in the United States, where they have tried this sort of thing in a number of states. I do not think they have had any real successes, unless you count the bullying timetable for the fast-track free trade deal.

A document by Professor Kenneth Meier at the University of Oklahoma points out that there are no major successes and that the process itself has

shortcomings. The sunset process is expensive. The funds must be spent to analyse agency missions and their performance; which is bureaucratic, going on ad infinitum. For instance, in Colorado the first sunset review abolished three of 13 agencies reviewed. They saved \$11,000, but the process itself cost \$212,000.

The minor agencies affected in Colorado suggest that the sunset success impact may be trivial. At the federal level this has been true also. The sunset process appears to have had only minor impact on agencies too weak to defend themselves, and agencies which might otherwise be doing a very good job.

The whole concept of citizen participation in government is good. Many citizens are volunteering their services on these agencies, boards and commissions. They are not the ones who would be down here lobbying a committee to be continued, volunteering which in many cases would be overwhelmed by the vested interests that might want other committees to continue.

There are then, let us face it, false expectations about what sunseting can do. It is not the ticket to small government; rather, it is just the opposite. They are time-consuming, time that Tory members do not now have to participate in various activities that committees should be doing. They do not increase public participation in the process. They do not encourage public reaction to vested interests, but just the opposite. For example, in a survey done in 35 states in the United States, 70 per cent of those states indicated that the average turnout for a public sunset hearing before a legislative committee was less than 25 people, and that in a country with nearly a quarter of a billion people; as you can imagine, they would usually be lobbyists.

I am indicating that the committee in those circumstances so often has inadequate information, not real information as to the agency's performance. The Management Board, on the other hand, does have that sort of information; so does the Provincial Auditor, for that matter. I am asking members of the Legislature to oppose this resolution.

Mr. Harris: I will try to be very fast. I rounded numbers when I talked about the capital in this year's budget. It is actually up \$83 million. If you check the Ministry of Government Services, it is up \$83 million, exactly the same amount; so there is where the increase in capital is: to house more civil servants.

1100

Can I just try to answer a few of the questions? The member talks about staffing. The problem is

not staffing, it is the priorities. If we take a committee on Sunday shopping and run it all over the province and then ignore it, that is a waste of time. If we take a committee and productively look at some of the expenditures, then I think the committee is doing some productive work.

The member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip) indicated his support for the principle and had some concerns about how it would be implemented. I appreciate that. It is a relatively vague resolution, but the one principle that is in here is that politicians will decide what will be reviewed in depth. To say that Management Board has all the facts, the member is telling me they are not prepared to share them with this Legislature, and that is an insult.

CANCER CLINIC NETWORK

Mr. Carrothers moved resolution 21:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that cancer continues to be a major source of fatality in Ontario and recognizing the need for extensive research, diagnosis and treatment, the government of Ontario should support the development of a community-based cancer clinic network.

M. Carrothers: *Merci, Monsieur le Président. C'est la première fois que je prends la parole dans cette Chambre, et j'aimerais profiter de l'occasion pour vous féliciter de votre nomination à l'office de vice-président.*

I am very pleased that I am able to bring forward a resolution proposing a network of community cancer clinics during cancer month. I would also note that April is not only cancer month, but that 1988 is the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Cancer Society.

In those 50 years, we have come a very long way in the research, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. We have taken very strong strides towards combating what is still one of the leading causes of fatality in Ontario today.

In the 1940s, less than five years after the Canadian Cancer Society was founded, only one in five, or 20 per cent, of all patients with cancer could expect to live for more than five years. In the 1980s, we can expect that one in two or 50 per cent of all cancer patients will survive for five years. This shows what the dedication and expertise that is being brought to the battle against cancer can do.

Nevertheless, while significant gains have clearly been made in this regard, recent statistics outlining the incidence of cancer should cause grave concern among doctors, hospital administrators and ourselves here in this chamber as we

all work together to establish policy in Ontario's health sector.

It is expected that by 1995 the number of cancer patients in Ontario will double, and by the year 2001 one in three people within the province will be diagnosed with cancer during some portion of his or her lifetime. In terms of real numbers of cases, it is expected that in 1987, there will have been 38,100 people diagnosed as having cancer. In Ontario, approximately 18,700 individuals will have died of cancer in 1987.

More time and money have been expended on trying to understand and defeat cancer than have been spent on any other medical problem. As an example of the magnitude of the moneys expended, in the United States alone more than \$1.4 billion are spent annually on research.

These efforts have paid off with an explosion of knowledge about all aspects of cancer. New methods of prevention, diagnosis and treatment have come to light, new medical subspecialties have grown up and a proliferation of technologies has arisen to translate this knowledge into improved treatment results. We must build upon our present system of cancer treatment in order to meet what has been described as virtually an epidemic of cancer.

At present, the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation and the Ontario Cancer Institute, which incorporates Princess Margaret Hospital, are mandated under the Cancer Act to conduct a program of research, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, which includes among other things: the establishment, maintenance and operation of research, diagnostic and treatment centres in general hospitals or elsewhere; the co-ordination of facilities for treatment; the adequate reporting of cases; and the recording and compilation of data.

To carry out this mandate, eight regional cancer centres have grown up with the support of the provincial government. These centres provide consultative services together with radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatments. Each of the centres operates peripheral clinics, which now number almost 30 around the province.

However, even with this elaborate structure for the treatment of cancer, only 50 per cent of the cancer cases in the province are handled through this system. The remainder are handled through local public hospitals and, therefore, are treated outside an organized cancer treatment system.

Though our local hospitals do a wonderful job treating these patients, the treatment of half of the cancer patients in the province outside a co-

ordinated program, means that the optimum level of care for these patients may not always be available. Easy access, for example, to data on treatment methods may not always be in place and some of the expertise that may be available to larger centres may not always be available at the local level.

A proposal for a community-based, province-wide cancer clinic network will alleviate this problem. Such a network of clinics would see the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation and the Ontario Cancer Institute through the regional cancer centres co-operate with local hospitals in development of those community-based clinics.

These clinics would provide better cancer care delivered closer to home in a personalized environment, provide a framework within which new methods of treatment could be quickly adopted and existing methods adjusted. It would ensure accountability both fiscally and by outcome and control costs in the long term without sacrificing results.

The community cancer clinic proposal would use the facilities of the existing community-based hospitals and use the existing referral system from local doctors. The network would retain the local hospitals to provide beds, treatment rooms, certain nursing care, staff and doctors. In fact, the clinics would seek to use all of the various facilities which exist at present in our communities.

The fact that treatment for most cancers could be provided in the local hospitals is an immense boon to the patient. I have had the opportunity of visiting a community cancer clinic which is currently being operated at the Cambridge Memorial Hospital and have spoken to some of the patients being treated there. I have also spoken with patients in my own community about their experiences in receiving cancer treatment. I found the difference quite startling. It is the difference between spending two or three hours receiving chemotherapy at your neighbourhood hospital and spending a day or possibly even two travelling into a larger centre and receiving treatment at a much larger, more impersonal facility.

At the community-based clinic, I found a very relaxed atmosphere. Patients were chatting freely with the medical staff. They seemed almost at home. They knew who was treating them. They had the same people dealing with them every time they came in. It seemed to make what was a very difficult and stressful treatment, receiving chemotherapy, much easier on the patient. They

also told me how much more convenient it was to be treated if they could just simply take two hours out of a day rather than taking two or three days out of a week to receive that treatment.

They talked about how it was when they were treated at the larger centres and mentioned the fact of wandering around in the halls, waiting for treatment and the long delays between various steps. When I speak of the impersonality of larger centres, it is not really to criticize them. We must recognize that it is in the nature of a large centre to be like that; though we have to recognize that modern medical technology now allows us to provide complicated treatments in the local hospital which previously had to be reserved for those larger regional centres.

I am told that the side-effects from treatment at the local clinic are fewer due to the fact that the patient is under less stress and strain when receiving treatment. They obviously have not had to spend those long hours travelling and there is less concern about how they would suffer when travelling back after receiving the chemotherapy treatment.

As well, the treatment at the local clinic may even be more successful than that at the larger centre; again, because they are under less stress and strain when receiving it. Certainly, the anecdotal evidence I saw seemed to imply that.

Shifting what one would consider routine treatments for routine cancers to the local clinics would free up the regional centres and the Princess Margaret Hospital to concentrate on more difficult cancer cases and to analyse the data which is becoming available on treatment of cancer and the data base which I will talk about, which can be created through these community clinics.

1110

One could envision a system where patients go to their local clinic for first diagnosis, maybe get referred to the regional centres for more difficult cases, and then return to the local clinic to receive their ongoing treatment and follow-up. In my view, this would result in a much better utilization of some very expensive medical resources.

The community clinics would also provide us with the opportunity to use the computer technology which is now available to us. A centralized computer chart-keeping system through the community cancer clinics on a province-wide basis would be able to carefully document and diagnose each case.

This province-wide data bank would have an immense value in the refinement, adjustment and

improvement of methods of cancer treatment. It would enable health professionals in the local cancer clinics to carefully document diagnoses and have available to them a range of experience in the treatment of cancer they might not otherwise have or be able to amass at a local clinic if it were operating independently. They could adjust and refine treatment without referring the patient to the larger centres, saving the patient a great deal of stress and strain and better utilizing our very expensive medical resources. The outcome of treatments could be evaluated according to agreed-upon standards and new treatments could be tested and rapidly introduced and the less effective ones more easily phased out.

The structure would also allow the implementation of a province-wide cancer screening program or the introduction of other methods of cancer control, and the province-wide data could be used to identify regional trends in the incidence of cancer and allow that to be acted upon.

At present, I was surprised to find out that there is no province-wide database, or a very limited one, something which I found very surprising, and I would suggest that effective treatment of cancer requires that such a database be created and that the computer technology is now very easily available to allow us to do that. Even if we just do that, creating such a database, we would have taken a major step towards more effective cancer treatment in this province.

The location of the community clinics would depend on several considerations. First, all patients should have easy access to the most up-to-date treatment at an easy travel distance from their homes. Second, of course, the communities must be willing and capable of supporting the clinics through the provision of qualified medical oncologists, chemotherapists, associate doctors and the volunteers which are going to be necessary to man such a system.

One question we should certainly be asking ourselves before we give our support to this proposal is how this proposal fits into the existing Ministry of Health policies in this area.

The Ministry of Health, and more specifically the minister, has stressed the need for Ontario to develop more community-based systems for medical care. A system of community-based cancer clinics would be a major step to providing such care for cancer, and given the self-contained nature of these clinics, fiscal accountability for the treatment of cancer would be increased.

At present, hospitals outside the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation system—and as I indicated earlier, almost half of the cancer patients currently being treated are outside this system—receive funding for treatment through the provincial life support grants.

At present, there are approximately 65 hospitals providing some form of oncology treatment funded through this program and \$25 million are spent annually in grants for this. When one considers that these grants also fund transplant patients and other chronic care patients, it is clear that we are not easily able to account to see whether those moneys are effectively spent.

Moreover, there is no province-wide audit system or review system to audit the medical impact of the various treatments or the cost-effectiveness of these grants. If one is concerned about the skyrocketing costs of health care, and I think we all are, a system of community cancer clinics such as the one being proposed makes very sound fiscal sense.

In summary, I feel that through a network of such community-based clinics, Ontarians can be assured of a uniformly high standard of care and cure which is both medically and fiscally accountable.

Treatment would be provided in an environment which is less disruptive to the everyday life of the patient.

The present funding of much community cancer care through a funding mechanism not designed for cancer treatment, in the face of what amounts to an epidemic of cancer, cannot be continued. If we do not expand the system of cancer treatment in a co-ordinated fashion it will expand to meet the demand which is obviously there, as has happened in the United States, and will expand in an unco-ordinated fashion, thereby producing possibly an uneven standard of care across the province at a cost which we really cannot afford.

I would ask my colleagues to support this resolution. When they vote, I would ask them to recall the statistics I mentioned earlier about the incidence of cancer and the growth of the incidence of cancer in our society.

With their help and the dedicated work provided by many members of the medical profession—and I would like, Madam Speaker, to take a moment to acknowledge the presence in the members' gallery of two doctors here who are working in such a system of community medical clinics. We have Dr. Hryniuk from McMaster University and Dr. J. Gowing from Cambridge Memorial Hospital—with the help of such

doctors and such a system of community clinics, we will be able to provide the best possible treatment in Ontario and keep this treatment within a cost that we can afford.

Madam Speaker, I would like to reserve the rest of the time remaining to me to respond to any matters which may come up during the debate. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): The honourable member for Cambridge.

Mr. Farnan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, it gives me some pleasure to support the motion of the member for Oakville South (Mr. Carrothers). I was very pleased when he made reference in his remarks to the situation in Cambridge and the facility we have in Cambridge with regard to the community cancer clinic. Indeed, I think he is quite correct that the model that exists in Cambridge is a model that could be well used throughout the province.

Cancer continues to be one of the major sources of illness and fatality in Ontario. Moreover, the incidence of cancer is increasing rapidly due to an ageing population and an increase in certain groups. An example would be women who smoke. Experts expect that the disease will have doubled in the total case load by the year 2001. That is a frightening statistic.

Certainly, this is not an optimistic scenario for the health of many Ontarians. Because of this projection it is important that the government take seriously and act upon the proposal being put forward by the honourable member.

The purpose of the bill is that the Ontario community cancer clinic network achieve its objective—a proposal which seeks to establish research, diagnostic and treatment facilities in general hospitals, thereby bringing the provision of care to cancer patients.

It is a concept which has an objective to develop an adequate reporting system to increase research into cancer and its causes. It is a method by which the province ensures fiscal responsibility. The member has made reference to all of these facts.

I speak with some experience with this disease in my family—and it is a family disease. It is also a long-term disease. My daughter was treated in Hamilton and I can remember the constant journeys back and forth, day after day, to Hamilton. I shall always be eternally grateful to the medical staff and the nurses for the treatment my daughter received. But I do concur with the member that it is a very stressful situation.

My wife, I remember, got the only speeding ticket of her long driving history as she was driving my daughter to Hamilton for her treatment. She had absolutely no idea that she was going over the speed limit and when the police officer pulled her in and told her the speed she was travelling at, she said: “I was just on my way to the hospital. I’ve got to get my daughter to the hospital.”

1120

That is just one example. I can identify too with the sitting-around, the waiting and the relief when eventually our turn came up for the treatment of my daughter. I can remember that it was different people we were dealing with—all good people, sensitive people, very well-meaning people, and providing outstanding service; but very often, they were different people. Certainly, when my daughter was being treated within the hospital and was staying there, the staff then crystallized and there were personal relationships.

In Cambridge, my wife had a brain tumour operation two and a half years ago and has been treated by Dr. Gowing in the Cambridge facility, and there has been a phenomenal difference. Again, the treatment has been equally wonderful, from just as dedicated people, but it is much more personalized. It is closer to home; it is almost family. I want for the other citizens of Ontario the kind of personal treatment that my wife has had the opportunity to receive at Cambridge over the last two and a half years.

It is very important that the data be available in order that progress can be made. As more and more people are affected by the disease, we must put in the hands of our professionals the tools that equip them to treat the patients as effectively as possible.

I think the honourable member’s suggestion of the database, the use of computers and the integration of the knowledge from around the province to provide the best possible treatment is an investment in our health for the future and an investment that, given the statistics presented to us this morning, many members of this House may benefit by, if we indeed follow and put into practice the suggestion of the honourable member.

Convenience—being close to home—is important, but it is not just a matter of convenience. I think it is a matter of the personalizing of the treatment. You are being treated in your home community. You are being treated by the same doctor and the same nursing staff in a smaller environment. The stress level is reduced.

While we need the larger regional centres for perhaps more complicated cases, perhaps for the diagnoses, I think the model the honourable member suggested this morning is a good model, a model where initially there is local examination and perhaps treatment, perhaps intervention at the regional level and coming back to our local base for ongoing treatment.

I do believe honestly that the side-effects are reduced in a local situation. I do believe it is related to stress, and I do believe it is related to the relationship that exists between the patient and her treating physician. That relationship can only develop in a more personal situation.

I am, as I said already, extremely grateful to the doctors and staff both in the larger facilities, in the regional areas like Hamilton, and in the local clinics, as in Cambridge. I think the ideal is a combination of both. We cannot do without either. But the system will not be as effective and will not provide the most effective results unless we do in fact come back to the local base.

I not only encourage members to support this resolution, but I do hope that the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) will look upon this resolution when it is passed and will implement it speedily.

Mrs. Cunningham: Our party would like to speak in favour of this motion today. We also agree in principle, of course, with the resolution of the member for Oakville South, but we do have some implementation and operating concerns that we will express to the House at this time. I would like to start with some background, some facts, delineate our concerns and come up with some suggestions.

The foundation for the present system of cancer treatment was established between 1939 and 1945. The legislation to create the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation was passed on June 13, 1943, but the act could not be put into effect until 1946, because of the Second World War. The first cancer clinic, therefore, opened in the new wing of the Kingston General Hospital in March 1947 and became the model for six other treatment centres, which still exist, in Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Windsor.

These seven centres represented a new concept in medical organization, and by combining research at the university level with clinical diagnosis and treatment, the foundation was able to unite into a common front the scientists, doctors and medical disciplines concerned with cancer.

Today these centres have become severely overcrowded, and staff have become severely overworked. In 1986, the ministry allocated \$2 million for the complete rebuilding of the Princess Margaret Hospital and the redevelopment of the regional cancer treatment centres in London, Hamilton and Sudbury—one, of course, which I am very familiar with.

While these funds are substantial and desperately needed, they do not cover the pressing problem of operating costs. The demand for operating costs for cancer treatment has steadily increased over the past 10 years, to the point where the world-class cancer care in the province is somewhat threatened. In fact, it is seriously threatened. Linear accelerators used in radiation therapy cost \$1.5 million to install and several hundred thousand dollars a year to maintain and operate. Chemotherapy treatments alone cost the Ontario cancer control system almost \$4.5 million annually in 1986.

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in Ontario. Between 1974 and 1984, the number of patients needing treatment for cancer increased by 37 per cent. In short, one in four Ontarians will develop some form of cancer before they reach the age of 74. To stay in the forefront of cancer medicine and meet its commitment to Ontarians, this province's cancer control system requires the support of a people and government who accept the magnitude of cancer's growing burden and who are willing to give this fearsome disease a high financial priority.

The Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation would like to have chemotherapy more widely available. The foundation would like to see doctors from smaller communities provide chemotherapy under the guidance of oncologists from the regional centres. For example, Huntsville would not be able to support a specialist but may have a doctor who is willing to provide the therapy under the guidance of an oncologist from the regional centre.

1130

The expansion of treatment and care services for cancer patients is a necessity. However, the establishment of extensive cancer research and diagnosis in every municipality in Ontario, as the member pointed out, would be very costly.

Presently, the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation in Hamilton does have seven consultative and follow-up clinics in its zone of service. The London Regional Cancer Centre has nine such clinics. Toronto has six; Thunder Bay, three; and Ottawa, two. Windsor

has one and Kingston has one. These outreach clinics enable patients to receive chemotherapy and follow-up care closer to home, and we support them.

Obviously, the distribution of these clinics is too sparse to provide adequate services to all Ontarians. This system of outreach clinics should be expanded to allow all cancer patients to receive chemotherapy and palliative care closer to home.

Ontario's cancer control system needs to help re-establish, expand or develop fundamental treatment programs within the regional cancer centres: such things as proper psychosocial support and palliative care programs for patients trying to deal with the shock of having cancer, the stress of therapy or the realization that they will not recover from the disease.

As the director of the London Regional Cancer Centre wrote in the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation's document entitled *Cancer in Ontario 1986*, "The greater emphasis on care (as opposed to cure) reflects a realistic appraisal of cancer treatment in the 1980s."

Our party agrees with this assessment. In April 1986, we released our palliative care discussion paper. It was well received. Our party believes that we must now move towards creating a province-wide system of palliative care in Ontario. To work effectively, this kind of care must offer the patient and family a range of services from a variety of different sources.

In Ontario, loose networks of hospitals, clinics, doctors, specialist teams, nurses, homemakers and volunteers have developed to meet the need as best they can. The problem, of course, is that conflicting organizational mandates and scarce resources have made palliative care difficult to co-ordinate, finance and evaluate, particularly because we have not yet developed any overall policies or standards directing the provision and growth of palliative care in Ontario.

We believe that the Minister of Health must take a firm leadership role in establishing better linkages within the system and ensuring that there is co-ordination. The Ministry of Health should also work closely with district health councils, health care professionals and consumers in each region to develop an efficient network of palliative care services geared to meet each region's projected needs.

Our party believes that the dying and their families should have a variety of choices, including palliative care in hospitals, in nursing homes and in their own homes. In addition, we

believe there should be important services or roles for day hospital clinics, home nursing services and homemakers if we are to provide families with the support system they require. Currently, 95 per cent of all this palliative care is administered in hospitals. Only 40 of 220 hospitals in Ontario offered some form of care in 1986.

The Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal reported that in the first five years of its home care program it saved \$276 per patient per day, or about \$900,000, so we see this as a cost saving. They saved \$250,000. The net saving to the system was about \$650,000. A 1982 Department of Health and Welfare report estimated total savings of \$700 million nationally if two out of every three cancer patients died in the home rather than in the hospital.

I think we have serious facts to be thinking about. The Ontario Hospital Association is concerned about the wish of the member for Oakville South to bring down the life-support grants from global grants to specific amounts to cover various different illnesses. We received this information in discussing this proposal with his staff. Separating cancer life-support grants from global life-support grants will not increase the funding for cancer treatment.

We are concerned. We hope that, in the implementation of this program, that will not be one of the suggestions he follows. Separating life-support grants would be budgeting by illness. It would become cumbersome, and if the hospital had used up all its proportion designated for cancer, would it have to turn away patients?

On the question of cost accountability, the ministry will be implementing a management information system, but not until April 1989. These standards enable various departments and services to be evaluated against industry norms, including workload measurements, cost control and resource utilization factors. This system will enable hospitals to become more accountable for all treatments, not just cancer treatments, and we applaud it. We just think it is going to take too long.

The Ontario Hospital Association has worked with the Ontario Medical Association, the Ministry of Health and the Hospital Medical Records Institute to develop comprehensive resource utilization guidelines. This is an innovative medical management practice that reflects the need to ensure that each hospital's physical, staff and financial resources achieve the optimum balance between demand for services, the availability of resources and the wellbeing of

patients. We hope the government will listen to the Ontario Hospital Association, as it, too, has looked at this problem.

In conclusion, we support the member for bringing forward this resolution.

Mr. Black: During the month of December, I had the opportunity to leave the activities that were taking place in this House to attend a most significant and emotional event in my home town. That event was particularly significant to me in that it took place in the high school I had attended as a student and where I had been a staff member and a principal for a number of years.

On that afternoon prior to Christmas, over 1,000 students, a staff of 60 people and a variety of other people from the community gathered together to recognize the contributions of Susan Mitchell to her fellow students at Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School. A number of us, including her fellow students and her principal, had the opportunity to pay a tribute to Susie Mitchell.

Susan was a girl who had been involved in student activities. She had been president of the Students Against Drunk Driving organization within her school. She had been involved in a great many activities during her career there. Most important of all, however, was not her involvement in activities but the kind of example she had set for her fellow students. She was a positive, enthusiastic and inspirational person.

The highlight of the afternoon was when the Lieutenant Governor of this province, the Honourable Lincoln Alexander, stood beside Susan and presented to her an award as an Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year. Those of us who have had an opportunity to see the Lieutenant Governor take part in such ceremonies know the kind of dignity and grace he brings to occasions.

When Susan stood to respond, she stood only with the help of the Lieutenant Governor, because the tragedy of Susie Mitchell's story is that many of her accomplishments in her school had been accomplished while she was suffering from inoperable brain cancer. The normal routine is that such awards are presented here in Toronto during the spring of the year. In Susan's case, the decision was made to present the award in December because it was feared she might not be available to receive that recognition when it was normally presented.

Susan Mitchell died just a month ago, but the kind of example that she set for her fellow students and within her community will not die. Cancer is the leading cause of loss of potential years of life in this province, and we have a need

for the Susan Mitchells to make the kinds of contribution in terms of leadership and in terms of inspiration that society needs. We can ill afford the heavy toll that cancer takes on the people who live in this province.

1140

Most distressing to all of us, I think, is the fact that cancer is not an old person's disease. At one time, it was so considered. It is not a respecter either of age or sex. Women who smoke are among the most increasing new cases of cancer. Canadian males can anticipate a 30 per cent increase in cancer over the next 10-year period.

But it is not statistics alone that tell the story of cancer. There is another side to the cancer story. I think all members of this House have had some personal experience with cancer and the havoc it wreaks on family life and on the people we love.

I come from an area that is a small-town community not too distant from Toronto and when people from my riding need help with the treatment of cancer, they come to Toronto. We are, in a sense, among the fortunate people in that respect, in that the journey to Toronto is approximately two or two and a half hours for most people.

But to the cancer victim, whose life may already be shortened and whose days on this earth are numbered, even that amount of time is an increase in time that could be avoided and should be avoided.

Most important of all is that people go through a tremendous stress when they are being treated for cancer and the families that surround them go through the same kind of traumatic experience. That trauma, that stress, is only heightened by the need to travel to distant centres to receive the treatment that is necessary.

Let me be clear that what I say is not meant as a complaint. I had a brother who died two years ago after a year-long battle with cancer. His life was lengthened and his days were made more productive by the fact that he was able to receive treatment, but I watched the financial impact and the traumatic impact on him and his family as each month he journeyed to Toronto and spent two or three days recovering from the stress of that trip.

The community cancer clinic network has four objectives. Its aim is to provide better care closer to home for victims of cancer. It hopes to provide a framework, a framework that will incorporate all cancer treatment programs. It should provide both fiscal and effectiveness accountability. It should help to control costs but at the same time

recognize that there is a need in this province for humane treatment for cancer.

There are other members who will welcome the opportunity to speak to this bill. I would urge all members of this Legislature to support the resolution.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am pleased to be able to address this resolution that has been put forward by the member for Oakville South.

It is a resolution which I think contains a great deal of merit because it does recognize the needs of people right across this province, particularly those in smaller communities who are more isolated from the medical treatment which is available in our major centres.

This resolution recognizes that cancer is a major source of fatality in Ontario and that we do need more extensive research, diagnosis and treatment facilities brought closer to everyone. In particular, I do support the development of a community-based cancer clinic network.

Unfortunately, to a large extent the emphasis in the current government is on creating major centres isolated away from those communities where we have so much need for this type of care.

I would hope that we could move towards a more decentralized approach to the treatment of this disease and other health concerns in this province. The concept of centralized care, available only in several major centres in the province, is not compatible with the objectives of a community-based, family-oriented caring society that we would all like to see emphasized and promoted here in Ontario.

Those concerns are particularly true in northern Ontario. Our communities are considerable distances from the major centres in the south and from each other across the north. I know that in my community, in particular, there have been very serious concerns expressed about the government's spending on major cancer treatment facilities going into isolated single-location centres. In Sault Ste. Marie, the physicians involved with health care and, in particular, cancer treatment have expressed very serious concerns about the approach of putting all or virtually all the resources of the province in northern Ontario into one major centre in the city of Sudbury.

I have no objection to moving facilities and improving the facilities in the community of Sudbury and bringing services to the north which are not there today, but the suggestion that those services should become the centres to serve the other communities in northern Ontario does not make sense in the northern Ontario context in

comparison with what it might, in terms of the closer accessibility between various communities in southern Ontario.

In Sault Ste. Marie, we are nearly 200 miles from Sudbury. The community of Thunder Bay is well over 500 miles from Sudbury and we have to ensure that while we do promote improved facilities in communities such as Sudbury we do not take away from the kind of local care that is needed in the other communities in that region.

We have had very serious concerns with this disease, a disease which afflicts so many families across our province. I think everyone has had experience with family members or close friends who have been afflicted with cancer. It is a serious concern and one in which the support of family, the opportunity to be either in one's home or close to one's own home, is essential in promoting the psychological wellbeing of the individual who may be afflicted with the disease as well as the family which wants to be so supportive. To do so, we have to ensure wherever possible that the services are available in the local community and that the doctors and the equipment are available in the local hospital.

In the Sault in recent months, we have had very serious headings like "Service to Cancer Patients in Algoma Said Faltering Seriously." We have the doctors involved with cancer treatment expressing serious concerns about what this government is doing. I will read briefly from this article in the Sault Star: "Service to cancer patients in Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma district is faltering because of lack of funding and recognition from the Ontario Ministry of Health, Sault physicians say. The situation has become so critical that doctors have written to Ontario Health minister Elinor Caplan expressing their grave concerns. They ask the Health minister to give cancer care here her urgent consideration and request a meeting the discuss their concerns."

This submission, supported unanimously by the Algoma West Academy of Medicine doctors, was presented to the minister. However, she has not been able to find the time to meet with the physicians themselves, individually. We are facing a situation where the Plummer Memorial Public Hospital's six-bed oncology unit will be moved in about three years to the General Hospital under a plan for rationalization of special services. However, neither hospital has the physical or financial capability today to handle this overstrained unit.

We have the chief oncologist in the community of Sault Ste. Marie, the first oncologist to

establish himself north of the city of Barrie, saying in a follow-up headline later in February, "Sault Gets 'Crumbs' For Cancer Treatment."

We have a lot of concerns with the approach of this government to such a serious illness and I would hope that we would see some direct reaction from the Minister of Health to this proposal and this resolution, which I heartily support.

1150

I have had the opportunity to speak with the minister on several occasions about some of the health concerns of physicians and local residents in my community, in particular their concerns about treatment for cancer.

The people of our community—and I am sure this reflects the opinions of people of all communities across this province—want to have the opportunity to get full, proper treatment comparable to the treatment that is available in the major centres right at their homes, in their home community, in their local hospital, wherever that is at all possible.

I think we could move and should be moving, as a province, towards community-based cancer treatment and I would heartily ask the Minister of Health to look seriously at this resolution. I would expect we will get strong support from this Legislature on this resolution and look forward to action from the government in the days to come.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Carleton—I am just not sure, I do not think he will have the full 10 minutes—for about three minutes.

Mr. Sterling: First of all, because this is the month of April, the month when the attention of the public is focused on cancer since it is Cancer Month, and second, because this is Volunteer Week, on behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus I would like to thank each and every volunteer who this month is going out knocking on doors and holding events like the fashion show in my riding last weekend, in the community of North Gower, where 400 women raised \$5,000 for the cancer clinic at Ottawa Civic Hospital. I would like to thank each and every one of those volunteers for their dedication and service to the fight against cancer.

I am particularly knowledgeable in some ways about this particular matter since my wife, Janet, is one of the 20 directors of the Ontario Cancer Society and has been involved with the Rideau-Osgoode Cancer Unit for 10 years. They have raised their contributions to the fight against cancer from \$10,000 to well over \$60,000 each year, and she and the people who are leading the

fight against cancer can do that only with all of the help of these volunteers.

I think it should also be mentioned that it is quite appropriate this is brought forward by the member for Oakville South because, as many of the members of the former parliament know, the former member, Terrance O'Connor, had a fight with cancer and has beaten cancer through a great deal of help from our Ontario health care system. I know it is the wish of the proposer of this resolution that Terry continues in good health.

One thing does upset me about this particular resolution, and that is that the Minister of Health has stated repeatedly that it is a policy of the Liberal government to be involved with preventive health care measures. This Liberal government has done so precious little to deal with the prevention of cancer in this province that it is disgraceful. Only yesterday did they take some positive action with regard to the addiction to nicotine. They have let over 500,000 young smokers take up the addiction to nicotine over the past three years of the Liberal government.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Sterling: I only hope that they continue in this bent and do something for a change.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Oakville South reserved about five and a half minutes. He may commence that five and a half minutes now.

Mr. Carrothers: I would like to thank all the members here who have indicated their support for this resolution. I would also like to note that I understand that the Ontario Medical Association will be debating a similar type of concept, I believe some time today. I can only hope that it is as supportive as this House obviously is.

I would like to reiterate that the creation of a province-wide system of clinics such as the one being proposed here really accomplishes two things, almost a win-win for the province. We will be making very sophisticated cancer treatment easily available to all of the citizens in an environment very close to their homes and in an environment very personally amenable to them, and it would be done in a fashion making use, to the maximum extent, of existing facilities and some of the very sophisticated communications technology available to us, so the incremental costs of such a proposal would not be that great.

We would be reserving the facilities at our centralized cancer clinics—if you could call it that, the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation—for dealing with very unusual cases of cancer or some of the harder cases to treat, leaving the more routine to be dealt with in the

local community and allowing the foundation to use its facilities for research. We would also be creating for it a database. I would like to underline again that I was very astonished to find that there is not a province-wide database on the results of cancer treatment available to the medical profession right now, and I think the creation of that and making it available to our cancer research centres would be a great boon and aid cancer treatment a great deal and make it much more effective in this province.

I would like to finish with the observation, as I indicated in my comments, that it would seem that almost half of cancer patients are now treated outside the organized system. There obviously is a need for the treatment; the need for the treatment is growing. If we do not create a province-wide system through which this treatment can be done in an organized fashion, making the best use of our resources, it will be done in an unorganized fashion and probably result in a situation where the treatment, as I indicated in my initial comments, could be uneven and also perhaps cost us more than we can really afford to devote or should be devoting to the treatment of cancer.

I would like to thank all the members who have indicated their support, and I hope all of the members today will support this resolution. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: It is very close to 12 o'clock. The standing order does state that I should not call a vote until 12 unless there is some

agreement in the House. Would it be agreed to proceed?

Agreed to.

1204

SUNSET REVIEW

The House divided on Mr. Harris's motion of resolution 22, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes

Brandt, Cunningham, Epp, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Martel, McCague, Philip, Reville, Runciman, Sterling, Villeneuve.

Nays

Ballinger, Black, Brown, Bryden, Callahan, Carrothers, Cleary, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Dietsch, Elliot, Faubert, Fawcett, Fleet, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, LeBourdais, Lipsett, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Mahoney, McGuinty, Morin, Morin-Strom, Neumann, Nicholas, Offer, Owen, Pouliot, Roberts, Smith, D. W., Sola, Stoner, Sullivan, Swart, Tatham, Velshi, Wilson.

Ayes 13; nays 38.

CANCER CLINIC NETWORK

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Carrothers has moved resolution 21.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12:05 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

BUDGET

Mr. Farnan: The people rejoiced with the coronation of their new emperor. Bright red bunting covered the countryside.

"My reign will be remembered for my honesty. The hallmark of my land will be open and accessible government. My people will have confidence in the fairness of my laws. These are the attributes; these are the clothes that I will wear."

Alas, as time passed, the poor subjects were disappointed. They began to question: "How can the emperor be honest when he breaks most of his promises? If the emperor will not listen to us, how can he claim to have open and accessible government? Why does the emperor place heavy taxes on his lowly serfs while his rich friends go untaxed?"

Slowly, they pulled down the red bunting, and as the emperor paraded in their midst, silence prevailed. They remembered the clothes he said he would wear, but they could not see them. But the emperor was not bare. True, he was not clothed in the apparel of honesty, openness, accessibility and fairness.

The subjects hung their heads in sadness. For the emperor whom they had just crowned was arrayed in the trappings of dishonesty, arrogance, distance and injustice. "Shame," cried the people. "We do not want an emperor with such bad taste in clothes."

Mr. Runciman: In response to yesterday's massive tax grab in the Ontario budget, I think the people of Ontario deserve to know some of the places their money is really going. It is going into the establishment of a rate-setting board for automobile insurance, which the Osborne report said would be ineffectual, costly and not needed. A cost of \$5 million-plus per year will be directed towards this board, just to institutionalize higher increases in our automobile insurance premiums.

Also, the hard-earned money of every Ontarian is not going to new hospitals or schools, but to pay for more and more civil servants, such as those advertised for in today's *Globe and Mail*: four new positions for the automobile insurance board at an average salary in excess of \$44,000. These four civil servants will be joining the more than 5,200 civil servants hired by this govern-

ment at an annual cost of more than \$250 million.

Let us be clear. The tax grab of the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) is going to pay for waste in government, for unneeded and unwanted agencies and boards, and for a bureaucracy that is expanding year after year. Yesterday's budget has prompted talk of a tax revolt. I think that is exactly what is going to happen in Ontario—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Runciman: —for the people of this province are sick and tired of this government lining its pockets at our expense.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Mr. Mahoney: I would like to bring to the attention of this Legislature the invaluable contribution of the many people who volunteer in two separate programs in the city of Mississauga.

The first is Community Living Mississauga. There are approximately 300 volunteers who assist in a variety of programs, committees and fund-raisers. In fact, we will be honouring these individuals this evening at Community Living's annual appreciation evening. The highest honour tonight is being awarded to Wally Harrigan, who will be receiving recognition for 20 years of volunteer service. It is the dedication and friendship of such people as Mr. Harrigan that make Community Living Mississauga the special organization it is.

One very important program available through Community Living is the one-on-one program. This program matches a volunteer with an intellectually handicapped person to assist in community integration. Together, they experience recreational activities, community groups and workshops as well as develop a very close and rewarding relationship.

The second example of community integration, albeit in a different area of volunteerism within the community, is the open house held last Sunday for a new group home to house former psychiatric patients in our community. This program, run by the Canadian Mental Health Association, has been a great success due to the efforts of professionals at CMHA working hand in glove with volunteers and local government in our community.

I would like to personally congratulate all involved in these two very worthwhile programs.

BUDGET

Mr. Mackenzie: The tragedy of large majority governments was underlined by the Ontario Liberal government's budget tabled yesterday. First we had the large Mulroney majority federally and how it has cost the people in increased taxes, a threat to old age pensions and the free trade sellout of our very country.

Then comes the Peterson majority, and we have unkept election promises and now the biggest and most obscene budget ripoff of the taxpayers of Ontario in their history. The budget stabs the ordinary workers with huge losses of income through the unfair and regressive sales tax hike, more for gasoline, more for personal income tax and more on beer, wine and cigarettes.

That would not be so bad if there were offsets in fairer taxes, but these are minimal. Corporations pay no more and get additional tax breaks. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, for our growing older population. The people in Ontario have been had by the large Liberal majority in Ontario.

Oh, how we should remember even the recommendations of a committee of this Legislature that we should be moving towards fairer taxes in Ontario. This has not happened in the Nixon budget, and our predictions of across-the-board sales taxes were right on.

Mrs. Cunningham: During the by-election, there were two things the people of London North told me they did not want: Sunday shopping and a tax increase. Within a week of my taking my seat in this House, they got both of them.

Yesterday, the people of London North got the biggest tax increase in history. The budget talks about the economic growth in Ontario and then slaps the people most responsible for that success in the face. It says to them: "Thanks for the extra \$250 million in retail sales tax last year, which we did not expect to get. Now just give us another \$1 billion and we'll call it even."

The average family of four already pays \$900 a year in retail tax and now will pay well over \$1,000. The tax increase at this level of government is going to be passed down to the local government, to the school boards in this province. The Board of Education for the City of London will be asking for almost \$170,000 more in local taxes, passed down to the local citizen. The government says it needs the extra revenue to cope with the problems of success.

That is what the Premier (Mr. Peterson) calls a "sweet headache." With this budget, the govern-

ment gets all that is sweet and all the taxpayers get is the headache.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Ms. Collins: I rise today to inform the House that I recently obtained copies of correspondence between Micron Ltd., a technical services company based in Hamilton, and Marland Environmental Systems, a water treatment and purification firm based in Virginia, which provide distressing confirmation of the negative consequences of the Canada-United States free trade agreement.

Late last year, the companies concerned explored the possibility of entering into a co-production arrangement, with Marland specifically interested in working with a Canadian company such as Micron in order to facilitate sales of its products to the Canadian navy. However, Marland ended these discussions because of the free trade agreement.

During talks with this American company, representatives of the Canadian navy expressed doubts whether, and I quote, "Canadian content will be as important as it was in the past." Marland itself now says, "While we are still interested in considering co-production in other countries, we are not really geared up to do so except under pressing circumstances, which may not now exist in Canada."

An important industry in Hamilton has lost a valuable contract because Brian Mulroney made a bad deal and failed to support indigenous Canadian technology, a position which contrasts markedly with the approach recommended by the report of the Premier's Council.

Thanks for the free trade deal. We can all say bon voyage to Canadian jobs, jobs, jobs.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired. The member for Markham for 45 seconds.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Cousens: The Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) said at a school in York region in the latter part of March that the announcements of the capital allocations for the school boards would be out in early April. We are now at April 21 and we still do not have those announcements. We know there is some money set apart in the budget for schools, but we do not know how much is going to be allocated. Could they do it soon, so that some of our students will be out of portables by September?

This is something that is an ongoing annual problem and this government has not done its share in trying to address it and resolve it

responsibly and quickly. We know the need is present. If you look at York region, Durham and Peel, there is just nothing happening in that. Our children are our most important resource. Is the minister saying they are not?

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

That completes the allotted time for members' statements.

1340

Mr. Ruprecht: I rise to ask for unanimous consent to mark Israel Independence Day.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. Ruprecht: On behalf of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), my colleagues and the government of Ontario, I rise for the purpose of recognizing an important event which took place on this day 40 years ago, May 14, 1948: the establishment of the state of Israel.

Israel is a young nation with a history that reaches back through millennia. Nearly 3,000 years ago, its law proclaimed, "Judges and officers shalt thou make thee...and they shall judge the people in righteous judgement." Since its establishment, the modern state of Israel has remained faithful to that fundamental principle of democracy.

It is a country of miracles, a country where the desert has been made to bloom, and one of the greatest miracles of that small nation is that the state of Israel has always been, and remains, a democracy. Born in tragedy and war, the universal greeting of its people is "Shalom," which is peace.

To the members of the Israeli diplomatic corps present in the Speaker's gallery, including Consul General Benjamin Abileah, and to all friends of Israel present today, may I, on behalf of the Premier, my colleagues and the government of Ontario, express our congratulations and our deepest wishes for peace.

I would like now to read the words of the commemorative plaque presented to the consul general by the Minister of Citizenship (Mr. Phillips):

"Whereas the state of Israel achieved its independence on May 14, 1948; and

"Whereas during the past 40 years the citizens of Israel have created a modern democracy that has earned its place in the community of nations; and

"Whereas we join with the government and people of Israel in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the proclamation of Israel's independence;

"Therefore, on behalf of the government of Ontario and the Ministry of Citizenship, we offer sincere congratulations on the achievements of the state of Israel."

In the words of Theodor Herzl, "If you will it, it is no dream." You have willed it and the dream has become a reality. Therefore, let me extend to our Jewish friends:

[Remarks in Hebrew]

Ms. Bryden: We in the official opposition join in saluting the state of Israel on its 40th anniversary on Israel Independence Day, which we celebrate today. Unfortunately, the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae), the leader of the official opposition, is not here today. He has a speaking engagement in Timmins, but he very much wanted to be here with all of us to celebrate this important milestone. He joins with all the members of the New Democratic Party caucus in this House to congratulate the state of Israel on achieving this anniversary.

The creation of the state of Israel is a miracle of our 20th century. It fulfilled a long-held dream for a homeland for the world's scattered Jewish people. Against incredible odds, the people of Israel have built a modern state renowned for its economic, social and cultural achievements. It has led the way in many innovative social, educational and economic programs.

The people of Israel have also built a modern parliamentary democracy. It has universal suffrage, a multiparty system, free elections, a free press, free trade unions and an independent judiciary.

We in this parliament recognize the state of Israel as part of the worldwide democratic parliamentary system. As Social Democrats, we in the New Democratic Party feel kinship with the Social Democrats in Israel, who have played a very important role there.

But we salute all of the people who built the state of Israel over the past 40 years. We salute their vision and achievements. We assure them, and all the people in the gallery today who join us in this celebration, of our ongoing support for the state of Israel.

Mr. Cousens: Our party would like to join the Liberal Party and the former minister responsible for multicultural affairs, the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht), and the New Democratic Party in expressing our very good wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Last night I had the pleasure of sharing part of the celebration with my good friend the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Kanter) and the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen). We were given an evening we will always remember.

It is a time of memories, as we remember the history that led to the creation of the state of Israel. As we all know, there will never be another Holocaust as long as there is an Israel.

It is a time to renew the great hopes for Israel that this country, with its strong democratic government, might continue to be a strength in the world. It is a time of happiness for all of us to celebrate their achievements, to celebrate their freedom, to celebrate the life of the Jewish nation.

Let us, here in the Legislature of Ontario, join in wishing Israel a happy birthday.

In the psalm of David, at the dedication of the temple, he said, "I will extol thee, O Lord, for Thou hast drawn me up and hast not let my foes rejoice over me." May there be no foes over Israel. May we continue to rejoice with them on this, their 40th anniversary, and may we live many years to enjoy more happy birthdays in Israel. Thank you.

Mr. Ruprecht: I rise to ask for unanimous consent to mark Armenian Memorial Day.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

ARMENIAN MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. Ruprecht: On behalf of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), my colleagues and the government of Ontario, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this day, which marks Armenian Memorial Day in Ontario.

On April 24, 1915, more than 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children were forced from their homes, marched across a desert and slaughtered. Two thirds of the entire Armenian population perished between 1915 and 1917.

The survivors of this massacre sought refuge in countries around the world and a large number attempted to rebuild their lives in Ontario. Indeed, they have made an important contribution to our province and to our country.

This day of remembrance for those who have suffered makes us even more aware of the value of our democratic rights and freedoms. The Armenian genocide was a violation of inalienable human rights and decency. Through this memorial, we hope to preserve the ideals of individual liberty, freedom and opportunity that

form the foundation of our society right here in Ontario.

Let us hope that by remembering these painful events we can learn from our past and work to fight injustice around the world.

1350

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In the alternate sessions and parliaments of this House when David Warner is not the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere, it falls to me, as the member for Scarborough West, to make our tributes to the Armenian community. I do so again today with a great sense of irony, given that this day of terrible tragedy, a genocide of 1.5 million people, falls on the same day as the happy anniversary of the state of Israel, after it also suffered an enormous Holocaust of its people.

I think it is important for us, as the Legislature, to remember that these incredible tragedies in human history have touched many nations and many peoples, some of which draw more attention than others. Even today in Armenia, there have been problems, and there are signs of some very imminent dangers to the capacity of that community, which still remains in that part of the world, in terms of racial actions taken against it.

It is good for us to know, as Canadians, that this has been a home of refuge for many Armenians, who are active members of our multicultural mosaic and who rightfully should call on all of us to remember their terrible tragedy on this date, the 73rd anniversary of the genocide.

Mr. Cousens: Our party would like to join with all members of the Legislature in remembering Armenian Memorial Day. It was in April 1979 that a former Progressive Conservative member, Osie Villeneuve, who was here when I first arrived and who passed away in 1983, moved a private member's resolution in this Legislature, and it was passed unanimously, that the Legislative Assembly would proclaim this as a memorial day.

In the tradition of the Legislature, which is unanimous on many things, the honourable guests who are in the gallery may realize that on subjects such as this we can be together, but there will be other things that happen in this Legislature today where we do not share in the same kind of agreement.

Something happened in 1915 to the Armenian people. It was a tragic genocide, and it is important for all of us, as fellow human beings, to remember the horrors perpetrated on the Armenian people. It is important for us to share it

not only among ourselves but with our children and our children's children, so that we never take for granted our freedoms and never take for granted the value of human life.

I quote from Abbé Groulx in a statement of 1924 when he said: "History not only makes the bond with the past; it makes it also among the sons of the same race. It is history more than blood, I venture to say, which generates ethnic feeling and makes it vigorous."

May the Armenian people continue to be proud, proud of their heritage, proud of what they have to offer to continue to make this a better place to live for all of us as they give of themselves in the whole environment, in the whole mosaic of what is Ontario. May they continue to give us something of themselves and something of their culture that we might benefit from them, and may we with them never forget the tragedies of the past but build from them so that in the future we will protect one another from such a travesty ever happening again in the history of mankind.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

FONDS DU PATRIMOINE DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Monsieur le Président, cela me fait grandement plaisir aujourd'hui de déposer en cette Chambre une loi sur le Fonds du patrimoine du Nord de l'Ontario.

Since my government first announced its intention to establish such a fund, I have canvassed northerners, through the northern development councils, on what the fund should do and how it should be structured. Our aim in establishing the northern Ontario heritage fund reflects that consultation and gives northerners a financial mechanism that will help them to take control of their own economic destinies and see more of the wealth generated by the north returned to the north.

In recognition of the need for a long-term commitment to the north, this government is pledging an initial commitment of \$30 million to the northern Ontario heritage fund each year for the next 12 years.

Mr. Laughren: Why 12 years?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Is he jealous?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Statement.

An hon. member: We will renew it at the end of 12 years.

An hon. member: Review and renew.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: He will be retired, so what is he worried about?

Mr. Speaker: Would you like to continue the statement? Thank you.

Interjections.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Toi, énerve-toi pas, le gars de lac Nipigon là-bas.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I remind all members that question period will start a little later. Minister, statement.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: The member should be back in the swamp.

Monsieur le Président, cela me fait plaisir encore de continuer mon discours, puisque les gens des partis de l'opposition, on dirait qu'ils n'en veulent pas. Alors, je tiens à mettre ça dans le compte rendu de la Chambre, puisqu'ils ne veulent pas écouter; on dirait qu'ils sont sourds. Alors, je vais continuer.

Ce Fonds sera géré dans un compte séparé du fonds général du Trésor, ce qui est quelque chose de nouveau dans cette province. Pour mettre l'accent sur la manière dont nous allons gérer ça, je vais demander à une institution financière de nous aider pour qu'on reçoive le plus de revenus possible sur le Fonds lorsqu'il ne sera pas utilisé. Les intérêts et les fonds qui ne seront pas dépensés, seront gardés dans ce fonds-là pour l'année suivante, ce qui est nouveau dans cette province en ce qui concerne un fonds.

A board will be established and composed of northerners broadly representative of all facets of northern life: small and large business—

Mr. Runciman: Liberals.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I will not do like Fednor; do not worry—industry and labour, manufacturers and tourist operators, women, francophones and natives. Some of the members of the board will come from the NDCs too.

The board will be responsible for establishing specific criteria for the fund's disbursement, but its broad mandate will include providing assistance to single-industry communities experiencing economic disruption from layoffs or shut-downs; assisting with the development of new technology, especially in the resource sector—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: The member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) should know that—helping

small businesses to get started or expand their operations—

Miss Martel: Speech.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Who is speaking at the back, Mr. Speaker? There is somebody speaking—supporting special projects to promote the long-term growth and diversification of the northern Ontario economy.

Ce Fonds ne sera pas là pour remplacer les autres fonds. This fund will not be there to duplicate other funds. It will be there on top of the other funds or programs. The board will carefully review relevant existing programs of the provincial and federal governments to identify those areas in which its own strategic investments will be the most useful.

Il y aura des membres du Nouveau Parti démocratique et du Parti conservateur qui feront partie de ce comité-là. Cela, je vous l'assure, Monsieur le Président.

As some of my colleagues will be aware, the ministry's highly regarded northern Ontario regional development program, which was slated to expire two years ago, was able to continue with a commitment from the northern development fund.

The goals of the Nordev program closely reflect one of the major aims of the northern Ontario heritage fund: to provide incentive funding to create jobs and start or expand small businesses in the north. Therefore, a portion of the fund will be used to support continuing private sector initiatives under the Nordev program.

This program is being reviewed, and it will be up to the board to decide if this program should not exist any more.

Pour faire la revue de ce programme-là, je tiens à rappeler que c'est un programme à long terme, pour douze ans.

It is a financial commitment of new moneys: \$30 million per year; \$360 million in total. It will be administered by a board made up of a cross-section of northerners—NDPers, Conservatives, independents and Liberals.

1400

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mostly Liberals.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Wait till the end.

The corporation will keep its fund in its own account separate from the province's consolidated revenue fund.

All unspent funds in any one year will remain in the fund and will be carried over for use by the corporation in future years. The corporation has the authority to invest any funds not needed in the

short term, and the interest earned will revert to the corporation's account.

When this government was elected, we made northern development a high priority. That fact is well known and our accomplishments are many. We will be relocating some 1,600 civil service positions to the north and have accelerated spending on roads and a range of public sector building projects. We have invested in natural resources, tourism, education and culture and communications.

We have listened to northerners, and through the northern development councils and the major conferences in Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay, this government has given northerners their say.

Like these previous initiatives, the northern Ontario heritage fund fulfils one of the Rosehart report's major recommendations.

I would ask my colleagues from all three parties to stop these petitions and pass this law this afternoon or tomorrow, and the fund will be implemented tomorrow or Monday. They have nothing to say.

Mr. Villeneuve: Why not Sunday?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Sunday. Same thing with me.

I join in welcoming this historic initiative and helping to ensure its successful implementation.

LA SEMAINE DU BÉNÉVOLAT

VOLUNTEER WEEK

L'hon. M. Ramsay: Monsieur le Président, au nom du personnel du ministère des Services correctionnels et des personnes associées, cela me fait un grand plaisir de me joindre à mes confrères ministres pour marquer la Semaine du bénévolat en Ontario et dans les diverses régions du Canada et des États-Unis.

I am also pleased to introduce today Ed Matthews, who is in the east members' gallery, from Mississauga West, and also Christopher Columbus from Muskoka-Georgian Bay. They are among 15 volunteers who have been chosen to receive a very distinguished service award from the ministry tonight. Thank you very much, gentlemen, for coming.

Volunteer Week was first established in the early 1970s as a way for the people of Ontario to recognize the outstanding contribution made by individuals in the community who give their time and talent freely for the benefit of all society. Volunteer Week has also come to be a time when we promote the concept of volunteer service to the community.

Anyone involved in volunteer programs knows that volunteering really is good for everyone, not only for the direct recipients of services, but also from a cost-avoidance standpoint. In just about all areas of social service in Ontario, volunteers are filling in gaps and strengthening services, often in a personal way that just cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

Not least of all, the volunteers themselves benefit, often deriving improved self-confidence and self-esteem from their involvement. Volunteering is truly a dynamic force in our society, a force that is really good for everyone.

I would like to pay a special tribute today to our volunteers in corrections, a very special breed in my view. They come into contact with people who are at a low point in their lives, those who have known rejection and abuse and those who have committed irresponsible and sometimes despicable acts. Yet in the face of this, they come to show optimism, caring and compassion without judgement.

There are nearly 5,000 volunteers working in correctional services right now. They come into all our 50 correctional institutes throughout the province and into our 110 probation offices throughout Ontario. They offer help, guidance and friendship to thousands of offenders each week. They come to us as literacy tutors, arts and crafts instructors, pastoral counsellors, discussion leaders and often simply as friendly visitors. Their generosity and enthusiasm is an invaluable example to all of us.

I believe that volunteers throughout the province, and particularly those who work in the area of correctional services, are deserving of our utmost praise and respect during Volunteer Week 1988.

RESPONSES

FONDS DU PATRIMOINE DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND

M. Pouliot: Monsieur le Président, en réponse à la déclaration faite par le ministre du Développement du Nord (M. Fontaine), j'aimerais attirer votre attention sur le fait suivant. Traditionnellement, les coutumes de la Chambre demandaient que les critiques des partis respectifs reçoivent une copie exacte du texte qui sera présenté. Certains diront que ce n'était que le décorum ou les bonnes manières qui dictaient cela, mais néanmoins, il est assez difficile d'évoluer à partir d'un texte dans au moins deux langues.

Had the minister's statement concerning the northern Ontario heritage fund been made some 15 or 20 years ago, it would have been cause for cautious celebration. After yesterday—another reminder—after the way our pockets have been picked yesterday through increases in taxes, personal income tax and gasoline tax, which will affect people of the north more so than anywhere else in the province, and the sales tax, where the cost of living is already higher, it is obvious that this government continues to take more money out of the north than it puts in. So much for their social conscience.

The export tax on softwood lumber, which was announced with great fanfare last year, has yet to generate five cents of compensation. It has been an export tax from the north to the south.

The minister tells us today that from now on the northern Ontario heritage fund will be indeed cast in stone. He says it will be \$30 million a year over a period of 12 years. On May 20, 1987, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) announced in his budget statement that \$30 million was to be spent in the fiscal year. As I read this statement, we know that the \$30 million of last year becomes the \$30 million of this year and that he has no intentions of spending what he should do, \$60 million, to get this show on the road. It borders on political fraud.

He does not mean what he says because I was here last year and I heard the Treasurer say: "I am going to get \$30 million for the people of the north." I was here yesterday when the same \$30 million reappears. Even Houdini could not have it both ways. The minister has lost his credibility.

I wish to end on a positive note. Let us hope the government, even with the \$30 million, will recognize the need to plan for the future so that the people who have a little less in this province—and they may be the future of Ontario, the people of the north—can at long last look to the future with confidence. The money is most welcome, but just as important is the planning so that we know five or six years down the line what we can expect from other Ontarians collectively.

VOLUNTEER WEEK

Mr. Farnan: In response to the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay), I would like to point out, for example, that the minister is actually underestimating the contribution of volunteers. He talks about filling in gaps and strengthening services. The reality of the matter is that in many instances the volunteers are the program.

This minister, this ministry and this government must understand that volunteers are meant to complement programs; they are not meant to substitute for programs. We must be very grateful for these people, as the minister points out, who are working with people who are at an all-time low point in their lives, and no wonder that they are at an all-time low.

I have been in facilities where it is a disgrace about the libraries, and in some facilities where the volunteers are the only program. Particularly in institutes for women, there is either outmoded equipment or nonexistent programs. We welcome the volunteers.

This party recognizes the contribution of volunteers. Volunteers are vital and important, but this ministry and this government must never forget there must be real programs. The job is not being done at the moment and we have to see more in that direction. Then the volunteers can be more effective.

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NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND

Mr. Harris: I too want to comment on the budget announcement made today by the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine). I too was a little shocked when reading through yesterday's budget to see in the tax grab after tax grab that was brought forward by the Treasurer and the impact that those tax grabs have on northern Ontario over southern Ontario. I pointed out that the only tax grab that came in that does not hurt us more in the north is the income tax because we do not earn as much money as the people in the south.

Having said that, I thought there might be something put back in to compensate northern Ontario, so I started to look through a little more of the fine print. What did I see? I saw the money that came from general revenues to support municipalities near the Hemlo gold mine will now be taxed out of those companies in northern Ontario. It will no longer come from general revenues; it will now come taxed out of the north.

I also saw a change in the write-offs for depreciation for resource companies that will take another \$7 million a year out of northern Ontario. I thought there must be something somewhere coming back in. Then I read about the northern Ontario heritage fund. I cannot understand how this government thought that we would be excited by flat-lining, by saying that for the next 12 years there will be no increase in what it gave last year or promised to give.

The Liberal government has been the master of the five-year program and the 10-year program to make it sound big. Now they are trying the 12-year program to make it sound bigger. What they have done is flat-line the amount of money allocated for the northern Ontario heritage fund, and the people of northern Ontario are not buying it.

I thought that was it, but today what do I find in this announcement? The northern Ontario regional development program money, \$20 million per year that was allocated for Nordev by the former government, started by the former government, the only good program they ever talk about that they have up there—they say here what a wonderful program Nordev is—now the government says that a portion of the heritage fund will be used to support continuing private sector initiatives under the Nordev program. That means to me that they are going to cut out the \$20 million, turn Nordev over there, and the \$30 million will have to replace that first.

It sounds to me like flat-lining at \$10 million per year is what we are going to see in northern Ontario, as opposed to last year's promise of \$30 million per year. When we get into the reality of this, it was proposed that Nordev be put in there by these councils. That is the biggest Liberal patronage council system I ever saw set up in northern Ontario. We will be watching very closely as they put in this new level of bureaucracy to take over a very successful Nordev program. Now they are going to take it away from the independent civil service that has been administering it and give it to a new bureaucracy of this council that they are going to set up. We will be watching to see how many Liberal hacks come from northern Ontario on that.

Of course we support the principle. But where is the \$30 million from last year? Now it looks like we are getting \$10 million a year for the next 12 years.

VOLUNTEER WEEK

Mr. Cousens: Every week is Volunteer Week in the Ministry of Correctional Services. I join in thanking those volunteers who do so much to help make Correctional Services work and to help those who are there. We also have to remember that what they are doing is an ongoing source of strength to the whole system and to those who are housed by the ministry. We should not do it once a week. There should be ongoing ways of reinforcing our gratitude.

The ministry has a way of making these announcements when other people are doing things. There are certain things that the ministry could be doing. When we start looking at what did not happen in the budget yesterday for eastern Ontario, I wonder what is really happening with this government in the young offenders facilities. We announced the Brockville secure facility a number of years ago and there has been nothing further developed on it. I know they can do all these thank-yous for people, but the ministry has to be doing something to support the people who are in those houses. I wish it would live up to those commitments.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member's time has expired. That completes the allotted time for ministerial statements and responses.

ORAL QUESTIONS

INCOME TAX

Mr. Speaker: The member for Nickel Belt.
[Applause]

Mr. Laughren: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: The question is to whom?

Mr. Laughren: My question is to the Treasurer about the most regressive, obnoxious and obscene tax grab in Canadian history.

Interjections.

Mr. Brandt: Other than that, it was OK.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: Well, let my friend defend it to his constituents. Let him try to defend that to his constituents.

Budgetary revenues in the province are expected to increase this next year by about \$4 billion—\$3.8 billion, to be exact, according to the Treasurer's own figures—and even with tax credits to low-income taxpayers, families earning as much as \$10,000 below the poverty level are still going to be paying provincial income taxes to the Treasurer.

Given the fact that those revenues are going to be up almost \$4 billion next year, why does the Treasurer keep pretending that he would like to do more for low-income people in Ontario but cannot do it? Will he make a commitment that he will stop shedding crocodile tears and admit he is sticking it to poor people in the province?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member would be aware, having studied the budget carefully, as I know he would, that under the Ontario tax reduction program last year,

about 660,000 of our low-income residents in Ontario either paid no provincial tax or had substantially reduced tax. This number has been increased by this budget to 810,000, and it is interesting as well, I think, that of these people, 350,000 who are tax filers paying tax to Ottawa, pay no tax under the personal income tax to the Treasury of the province.

Mr. Laughren: Perhaps at some point the Treasurer could tell us what that has to do with the fact that people earning \$10,000 below the poverty line will still pay provincial income taxes.

I wonder if the Treasurer could tell us, since he is not prepared to dip into the overall \$4-billion fund to relieve pressure on low-income people, how he rationalizes the fact that with almost \$1 billion in revenue coming in from the sales tax alone, the most regressive of all possible taxes, he could not afford \$100 million—which we estimate is the cost, and I do not think the Treasurer will disagree with this—out of that \$900 million and some, to relieve people below the poverty level from paying Ontario income tax.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member knows from my previous answer that we have already expanded the number who are substantially exempt from personal income tax. Since there were some interjections, and I am not sure whether from the NDP or the Progressive Conservative Party, about the retail sales tax, I think he would be aware, having studied the budget, that over \$400 million has been allocated to reducing the impact of sales tax on lower-income individuals and families. We put that range at approximately \$25,000 a year and below, and we feel that is the correct way to focus and concentrate the assistance for the payment of that particular tax.

Mr. Laughren: It is still a fact that a family of four earning \$23,000 in Ontario is classified at the poverty level and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) insisted those people continue to pay provincial income taxes. I wonder if I could put this in a little different perspective for the Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker: By way of question, I hope.

Mr. Laughren: By way of question: The Treasurer will know that there are many profitable corporations in Ontario that to this day pay no corporate income tax—absolutely none. We have given him a list of those. If I could use the Toronto Stock Exchange as an example, because it is a nonprofit corporation, it never has paid any corporate income tax and it never will, as long as it retains that status.

Could the Treasurer tell us how he explains a perverse tax system or tax policy which allows the central nervous system of capitalism in Canada to avoid paying any taxes, while people below the poverty level continue to pay taxes?

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Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member describes the Toronto Stock Exchange as sort of the Fort Knox of Ontario. In many respects, as the marketplace for securities that are traded on a regular basis, it is one of the senior ones in the world. The fact remains that it is nonprofit. Since there is no profit, there is no tax payable.

Mr. Laughren: It made \$6 million in 1986. The Treasurer may think that is not much.

Mr. Speaker: A new question, the member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Laughren: They did make \$6 million in 1986.

Mr. Speaker: To the same minister?

Mr. Laughren: Yes, to the same minister. We know now that the Treasurer has clearly staked out his turf and that he is going to stick it to the low-income earners in Ontario.

My next question has to do with the problem faced by middle-income earners in Ontario. Yesterday the Treasurer's officials told us that a family of four in Ontario earning \$40,000 a year, which is hardly a luxurious income these days, will pay more taxes next year, under his budget, than they would have paid before this budget.

As a matter of fact, the federal tax reform would have reduced the tax they pay. He has made sure that those middle-income people now will pay more. At the same time, if that family of four had an income of \$90,000, they would pay less income tax under the Treasurer's system, because that surtax he talks about at \$85,000 does not kick in the way he said it would.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Laughren: As the Treasurer is sticking it to the low-income people and to the middle-income people, where does tax reform begin?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member has indicated that the savings which were accruing to the taxpayers in Ontario from federal tax reform were all taken away. I think he knows that is an exaggeration. If we had not adjusted the personal income tax rates, our revenues from personal income tax in this province alone would have been down by about \$510 million. In the adjustment of the rates which were in the budget tabled yesterday, we have still left in the pockets

of the provincial income taxpayers—that is, to the province—about \$239 million.

I would like to have left more, but we have the responsibility to pay our bills in the province as well, and it was my judgement as Treasurer to recommend to the House that we leave those almost \$220 million in the pockets of the taxpayers and at the same time tax the amount I have referred to in support of our own programs.

Mr. Laughren: I think I am starting to understand the Treasurer's concept of tax reform. Low-income people are getting no relief under his budget. Middle-income people are going to be paying more under his budget. Wealthy people will pay less, and he has given almost \$200 million to the corporate sector in the form of tax breaks of one kind or another. And guess who pays for all this? It is the middle-income earners in Ontario. My simple question is: When is he going to stop sticking it to them too?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Just as soon as I stop beating—no, no, that is another one. I would say that the honourable member would be aware, and I do not want to repeat needlessly, that the tax reduction program is as we have already described it. To add fairness and justice to the system, although perhaps not enough to satisfy the insatiable member, we have put a 10 per cent surtax on high incomes, just slightly above his own income, where he does not have to pay the surtax, although maybe I should reconsider that.

The other matter which concerns me is his reference to the fact that corporations are getting off scot-free. If he would look at the compendium in the budget he would see that, in fact, corporations pay a larger share of the total tax revenue this year than they did last year. The part that is going down is the contribution from the government of Canada, and it is a matter of concern for me.

I know the federal government has budgetary problems as well, but it is factual, when you see the distribution of the revenue responsibilities, that corporate responsibilities measured by numbers of dollars and per cent go forward; it is the contribution from the federal government that is going down.

Mr. Laughren: If the corporate sector is continuing to pay the same proportion of revenues, it is only because its earnings are up substantially. That is why, not because it is paying a higher rate. There was absolutely no increase in the rate for the corporate sector.

The Treasurer should know that it was not just income taxes that were raised for middle-income

people in yesterday's budget; it was also gasoline taxes, liquor taxes, tobacco taxes and sales taxes. When you add all those together—the sales taxes, plus those taxes, plus the income taxes—it is going to cost that average \$40,000-a-year family about \$400 more next year. The Treasurer knows that those families spend a lot higher proportion of their income on purchases than do wealthier people in Ontario.

My final plea to the Treasurer is, does he not think he has done enough already to the middle class in this province?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: In answer to another sort of rhetorical question, I am not sure that I have done enough for the people in general, but for the middle classes, which he is singling out and in which he probably places himself and his family, as I place myself and my family—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Come on.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, there you are—we are improving the quality, availability and accessibility of one of the best education systems anywhere. We are improving our hospital services. We are building better roads. We are providing additional opportunities for young people to equip themselves in the competitive world of the future. We are developing the north. We are improving the quality of our environment. That is just the beginning of a list of services and programs that are designed to make life better in this province.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Brandt: My question, as well, is to the Treasurer, and it is with respect to that historic document that he brought in yesterday which in fact provided the people of Ontario with the largest tax hike in the history of this province in terms of cumulative dollars. As the Treasurer will realize, over the last five years this province has really enjoyed unprecedented growth, going back two years before his government came to office.

In the three-year period since he has been the Treasurer, his cumulative increases in revenue have totalled \$29 billion. Recognizing that he has had \$29 billion in additional cash to fund the programs that this province needed, can he tell the people of this province why he would need to increase taxes in this budget by \$1.3 billion? What is the justification for that?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member should think less in terms of an unwarranted tax grab and more in terms of a substantial investment in the future of this jurisdiction.

The honourable member referred to the largest tax increase in the history of the province. I think he would recall that when our mutual friend Frank Miller was Treasurer in 1981, he undertook a substantial expansion of the revenue base, which is a more moderate way of putting that. Compared with the domestic product of the province at the time, it was actually 0.75 per cent of the whole domestic product. The change announced yesterday was a mere half of one per cent.

When viewed in those objective terms, there is no way that the honourable member could be supported by thinking, realistic citizens in his description of anything like an unprecedented tax grab, because it certainly is not.

Mr. Brandt: Let me repeat, so there shall be no mistake on the other side, this is a historic, unprecedented tax grab, the largest in the history of Ontario. That is what it amounts to, and let there be no mistake about that. He can fudge the figures all he wants over there, the reality is that the gross numbers are higher in his budget than in any other budget by any other Treasurer.

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In that the Treasurer, kind-hearted soul that he is, has set aside money which, to use his terms and to use the language of the Treasurer, is "an investment in the future of the province of Ontario," might I ask the Treasurer, since he has all of these additional revenues which he is going to extricate from the pockets of the little taxpayers right across this province, since he has these revenues now in his hot little hands, why is it that on a year-to-year comparison in that capital which he is investing in Ontario, his capital funding has gone up the sum total of \$83 million? Does he call that an investment in Ontario's future when he has taken \$1.3 billion?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It is strange that the honourable member, who is knowledgeable in these matters and had responsibilities as a minister of the crown, would try to persuade the members of this House that 1981 dollars are equivalent to 1988 dollars. If he had any semblance of reasonableness and wanted to convert those numbers to constant dollars, he would realize that even in absolute terms, this indication of tax base broadening yesterday, amounting to about \$950 million in this fiscal year, would have to be about \$1.1 billion, to be compared with Mr. Miller's initiative, in constant dollars.

So that the people of the province who will be observing this exchange would not be unneces-

sarily led into making incorrect conclusions, I thought I would like to correct that matter.

Mr. Brandt: Since the Treasurer wants to correct that, let me just assure him that we will be using the same logic and remind him of that speech when my colleague the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) reminds the member from the north about the \$30-million per year heritage fund which is set over 12 years and which he is now bragging about is going to be some \$360 million. That too will be in discounted dollars when those amounts come through, so we will be talking to him about those and that particular set of logic as well.

My final question to the Treasurer is, if in a year of unprecedented growth, when the provincial economy is expanding and when he has had \$29 billion in additional revenues over the last three years, he can work with that in order to pay for these programs; if at this time he cannot give the people of Ontario a tax cut, when then can the people of this province anticipate receiving some tax relief from his government?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member began his questions with reference to the constituency of Nipissing. You would be aware, sir, that in the last three years Nipissing, probably more than any other constituency in Ontario, has been the recipient of a good deal of the initiative of this government; that we have opened a new courthouse there; that there is a new head office of the railway; that there is a planned four-laning of the highway going into the city of North Bay for the convenience of the taxpaying residents, including his honourable colleague; and that, most important of all, we are locating the head office of one of the principal ministries of government right in the constituency of Nipissing. We play no political favourites. We felt that was a good location for that sort of investment.

When the honourable leader of the third party refers to high taxes, he would also be aware that we have another kind of responsibility, and that is a responsibility associated with the deficit. When we took office three years ago, the honourable member would know, the cash requirements were \$2.2 billion but in fact the budgetary deficit was a billion more than that: \$3.2 billion. As a result of this budget, we have reduced the cash requirements to below \$500 million, and I am very proud of that accomplishment.

GASOLINE TAX

Mr. Harris: I, too, have a question for the Treasurer. I thank him for complimenting the

member for Nipissing for making sure Nipissing gets its share of massive government spending.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Do not complain that we are not spending enough money in the north.

Mr. Harris: It is how you spend money.

Hon. Mr. Scott: You don't want a courthouse? You don't want a highway?

Mr. Harris: The government is spending wrongly in Nipissing. The building is now double the estimate.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Are you asking whether the Treasurer agrees with you on that?

Mr. Harris: No. As soon as you can control the House, sir, I will ask a question. Under control now? Thank you.

The Treasurer says a special levy—that means tax—of three cents a litre has been imposed on leaded gasoline “to reinforce the government’s commitment to environmental protection.” While we understand their need to reinforce and prop up their lagging commitment in the area of the environment, it is obvious that this tax grab has nothing to do with the environment. If the Treasurer is really serious about the environment, he would encourage the use of unleaded gasoline by making it more affordable. Why does he not make it more affordable so that he can prove to the people that it is not just a tax grab for more money?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Perhaps two things: the honourable member would be aware that the government of Canada has decreed that leaded gas will go out of utilization in this country by 1992, so the people who are using leaded gas will not have that as an alternative in the reasonably near future.

We felt it was an appropriate environmental initiative to equalize the price between ordinary unleaded gas and leaded gas, with the understanding that the revenues from that source can be directed towards environmental programs. We expect it to be about \$39 million the first year, decreasing to zero as quickly as possible, and we think that is an appropriate initiative in that regard.

Mr. Harris: It sounds like a tax grab to me, and a desperate one, because the Treasurer realizes he has only another four years to grab all he can out of it. That is his commitment to the environment. The Transportation people say they are going to spend it on roads but maybe the Treasurer knows something different.

I would remind the Treasurer that it is not the first time he or his party have tried to hike gasoline taxes. Our party successfully opposed it

when he tried it in his first budget. Now he is back in all his arrogance, with his majority, and he thinks he can ram it down our throats again. This tax on gasoline puts the tax grab at almost \$700 million since he has come in. The Treasurer is no tree hugger; he is a gasoline mugger. Why has he chosen now to capitalize on his majority and exploit Ontario drivers?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I did not want to associate the revenue from the three cents a litre tax on leaded gas with highway construction, because it is to be directed towards environmental programs. The honourable member has not referred to the additional one cent a litre across the board on unleaded gas, which is to be directed, to the tune of \$100 million this year, to improving our highway and transportation system.

I would like to point out to him that since 1985, the federal government has moved into the gas tax field in a big way. Back in those years, in 1985, the federal tax was under five cents a litre, well below the provincial tax. It has now moved to over 10 cents a litre. So the honourable member, who has the temerity to be critical of this revenue-expansive mood, is actually supporting a party at the federal level which has a gas tax in excess of 10 cents a litre; actually, almost a cent a litre ahead of the tax that will be put before this Legislature some time in the future.

Mr. Harris: I did not know the name of the game was to see how fast the Treasurer could catch up.

The Treasurer mentioned the one cent. I have not forgotten that. When I read the budget, there was a little sense, as I went through the gasoline taxes, of *déjà vu*. He might be forgetting that there have been governments which have been defeated on 18 cents a gallon tax increases.

In my view, the Treasurer is turning into a road hazard. If he wants to be responsible, I would ask him to abandon his gas tax increase immediately, show his concern for the environment the way other countries do and reduce the tax on unleaded gasoline.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Government policy has already been enunciated in that regard.

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NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Pouliot: I have a question for the Treasurer regarding the northern Ontario heritage fund. I do not wish to reel off old communiqués or Hansard, but what I have in my hand is from the Ministry of Treasury and Economics. It is dated May 20, 1987, 11 months ago yesterday. In fact, it is the budget of May 20.

I am quoting: "The Ontario government is furthering a strategy for long-term revitalization of the northern economy. Among the measures announced in today's budget to assist northern Ontario is a \$30-million allocation to establish a northern heritage fund." May 20, 1987, allocation: \$30 million, 1987.

April 20, 1988: A flower that has turned red. I quote from the Highlights, 1988 Ontario Budget: "The northern heritage fund"—a born-again fund—

Mr. Speaker: And the question.

Mr. Pouliot: —"begins operation this year to help promote..." and it says \$30 million. My question to the Treasurer is very simple: With \$30 million for 1987 and \$30 million for 1988, will he commit \$60 million to be spent under the auspices of the northern heritage fund?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We have committed \$360 million between now and the end of the century. I feel that commission is a well-considered one. I sense that the people of the north, while they should show no gratitude, will at least show some understanding of the sensitivity and the excellent minister who administers this program.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Lake Nipigon would like to ask a supplementary.

Mr. Pouliot: Question period is great. Question-and-answer period would be even better.

Since the Treasurer—

Interjection.

Mr. Pouliot: No, no; \$30 million here, \$30 million there. Pretty soon they will be talking about real money.

The Treasurer refuses to acknowledge the obvious, that we are as close as possible to a fraud here unless he spends the \$60 million, because he did not spend one penny last year.

Let us examine, by way of supplementary, the export tax on softwood. Up to now, it has generated some \$34 million. The Treasurer has not spent five cents of that either. Will he make the commitment that if he will not spend last year's and this year's heritage fund, at least we can get back the money that we send down south?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I cannot believe the honourable member is seriously putting to the House that the government of Ontario has not spent \$30 million in the north. That is patently absurd—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It was the heritage fund.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: If the member wants to talk about the heritage fund, fine. We can return to

that. We are now talking about the revenues that are returned to the general revenues of Ontario on the basis of the tax on softwood lumber. We do not earmark any of those dollars but we spend 10 times that much in the north on roads, buildings, programs, education, bridges. It is all there. They are getting it all.

Mr. Harris: I think it was in Sudbury that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) promised that the softwood tax would be returned to the benefit of the resource industries in northern Ontario. It was the Premier who made the commitment, not the Treasurer. I understand that. The Premier did.

Why has not one cent of that money been returned to the north in the past year? Can the Treasurer tell me how he is planning to reinvest that \$30 million—which will go up into northern Ontario each year over the next 12 years—to benefit the resource industries, as the Premier promised?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The best answer to the question—and it is perfectly legitimate—is that the Ministry of Northern Development has an allocated budget this year of \$305 million. This is 28.7 per cent greater than last year. That is a clear inclusion of these dollars and many more.

Mr. Harris: Since the Treasurer indicates we are not getting that money the way the Premier promised we would get it—it is all rolled in; that and everything else; the Treasurer rolls it in so that nobody can trace it—let me ask him a supplementary.

The Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine), in his statement today said, “Therefore, a portion of the fund”—the \$30 million—“will be used to support continuing private sector initiatives under the Nordev program.” Can the Treasurer tell me what portion of that fund will be put into the Nordev program and can he tell me what portion of the existing money going into Nordev will then be cut out?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member is now talking about the heritage fund. It is a separate fund that will be controlled through the Ministry of Northern Development and its own board. That money does not come directly out of the consolidated revenue fund except for its annual increments of \$30 million. I am informed that \$5 million from next year’s \$30 million will be directed to the purpose the honourable member describes.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Ms. Poole: I have a question for the Minister of Education. As members are aware, this is Education Week in Ontario and I think we would

all agree that we have a responsibility to make sure that not only our children are educated and the public is educated, but also that our fellow legislators are educated.

When the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) was asked a question in the House last week about capital funding, I was rather surprised, if not astonished, at some of the comments from my colleagues to my right, both physically and philosophically, about capital funding in education.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Ms. Poole: The question is coming immediately, Mr. Speaker.

I think we have a duty to enlighten. Would the Minister of Education please tell them what the level of capital funding was pre-1985 and what it is today?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I want to thank the honourable member for her excellent question. Indeed, I am delighted to respond that in this year’s budget, the Treasurer has committed some \$300 million for the capital needs of our schools. It is part of a \$900-million, three-year plan that will generate some \$1.3 billion in additional school facilities.

I think this compares very positively in terms of the amount of increase on a year-to-year basis. It represents a 400 per cent increase over the levels that were established in 1984 and 1985.

Ms. Poole: I thank the minister for that enlightening answer.

Ms. Poole: I think perhaps the new member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham) would appreciate perhaps a few more facts about spending in education, so could the minister elaborate on this year’s budget and the massive increases in education that are coming to this province?

Hon. Mr. Ward: As I have indicated before, this government clearly has shown its commitment to education, not only in terms of the amount of capital funds that will be made available for new school facilities, but indeed in terms of the amount of funds that are available through transfer payments to school boards. This current year’s increase was something in the neighbourhood of 7.2 per cent. I think that truly reflects this government’s tremendous commitment to quality education in this province.

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ONTARIO HOME OWNERSHIP SAVINGS PLAN

Mr. Breaugh: I have a question for the Treasurer on his Ontario home ownership savings plan or, as it is popularly known, Ohospit.

In trying to identify exactly where this plan would actually generate enough savings to constitute the down payment on a home, we are having some difficulty; obviously not in Toronto, where house prices are in excess of \$212,000 or in Brantford where they are just under \$100,000. We were unable to get statistics for St. George. I think there was a computer failure there.

Can the Treasurer tell us where this program has an actual practical application in assisting people who are trying to buy their first house, where the amounts stipulated under this program actually come even close, either now or worse yet, five years from now, in supplying them with the down payment for the house? Name one community.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I just want to begin by telling the honourable member that I know of a really nice rural property in the St. George area that if he is interested, we could have some informal discussions on.

Mr. Breagh: It's a bad neighbourhood.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, if the member buys and I move out.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Gas has gone up too.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I want to tell the honourable member that the program is one that was an election commitment by the Liberal Party of Ontario and we are responding to it with very minor adjustments, to improve it actually. It is not designed to give anybody a free house, far from it, or even a free down payment. It is designed to assist people, particularly young couples, in saving for the down payment.

While the honourable member may feel it is totally inadequate, the taxpayers of Ontario will be forgoing \$50 million in revenue in this particular tax preference.

Mr. Breagh: I note the Treasurer was unable to name a community where it had any practical use.

Can he tell us, when designing the program, why he excluded people who would actually be qualified for mortgages? This appears to be a program that has no practical application in protecting savings that could really be used for a down payment and, oddly enough, it excludes those who would actually qualify for a mortgage.

Can the Treasurer tell us why this home ownership program excludes those who could actually buy a house and does not do anything in terms of generating savings for mortgages? It seems a strange program indeed that has no application.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It has ample application, and the cost of the application I have already brought to the attention of the honourable member, but what he is talking about is the fact that the regulations and rules that we are going to recommend to this House under this program restrict its application to those families whose joint income is \$40,000 a year or less rather than the honourable member's friends.

[Later]

Hon. R. F. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: To correct the record and the information I gave the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh), the limit on OHOSP is \$40,000 per individual and \$80,000 per family, well within mortgage limits.

Mr. Breagh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The Treasurer should know that an annual income of \$62,712 is required in Metropolitan Toronto to qualify for a mortgage. Those people are virtually excluded from Ohospit.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is a point of information.

Mr. Breagh: If it is a point of order for the Treasurer, surely it is a point of order on this side.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have tried to allow all members to correct the record.

SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. Sterling: I originally wanted to ask a question to the Treasurer about eastern Ontario, but there is nothing in the budget about eastern Ontario, so I am going to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology a question.

I am sure if the minister has read this morning's press, he is aware of the small business community's enthusiasm with this budget—there is none. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business, which represents 80,000 small businesses across Canada has called this budget inflationary, one which will keep interest rates high, one which will result in higher taxes for them, one which will dampen consumer spending and one which will negate the savings won by small business in the federal tax reform. What does the Treasurer have to answer as the minister who is supposed to speak for small business?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: If the member had read the budgetary documents, I am sure he would know there are several initiatives that really affect small business. There are initiatives in the way that we are providing funding for small businesses to access technicians and engineers, to allow them to be competitive in the high-tech

industries. There are provisions so that we can provide availability for them to bid on contracts. There is \$25 million for that. There is \$38 million for the program I mentioned previously.

There are programs whereby, when they buy manufacturing equipment, there are tax incentives. There are tax incentives for capital reduction. There is a reduction in the taxes for increase in capital. There are lots of programs that will help small business in the most beneficial way possible, to allow them to get positioned so they can become world competitive and so they can adapt to the new high technology they are going to have to operate in. I think it is a very progressive budget from that point of view.

Mr. Sterling: Maybe the minister should talk to the people he is supposed to represent, because Judith Andrew, director of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, said the new deductions for research and development and manufacturing equipment purchases will not benefit the smaller firms that organization represents.

Earlier this week, the minister answered a lobbed question from one of his back-benchers. He said he wanted to help small businesses grow into medium-size businesses and larger businesses. He assured this House he would support small business. As a result of yesterday's budget, the small business community now finds it has lost the one great advantage it thought it had in the past, the three-year exemption on corporate tax for newly formed small businesses.

Does the minister not think he missed the mark on this? Will he not speak to the Treasurer and really do something for small business for a change?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I have no apology to make in the way we treat small business. We have constantly realized that small business is the basis for business in Ontario because most of the businesses are small. We have a series of programs, we have a small business advocate and we are constantly conscious of the concerns of small business. As I said in my response to the member's earlier question, I am delighted with the initiatives of the Treasurer.

I think we have acted responsibly and, in the long term, we will provide an ability for these small businesses to grow into medium-sized and large businesses. Their future is very well looked after by the initiatives of the Treasurer.

SKILLED WORKERS

Mr. Mahoney: My question is to the Minister of Skills Development. Many communities in

this province are relying on small business for their economic growth and survival. With unemployment province-wide in the neighbourhood of five per cent and many high-growth regions running below that, there is a definite lack of skilled and properly trained workers available to small business.

This problem is acute in my own community, but I do not believe we are the exception. At the same time, a week does not go by without several appointments in my office, with people highly qualified in certain areas where they cannot find work. Workers are qualified, but there are no jobs in their field. Yet there are dozens of jobs in other areas where they are not qualified.

What specifically is the ministry doing to improve the number of skilled and properly trained workers available for small business in this province?

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Hon. Mr. Curling: I want to thank the honourable member for his excellent question. As members know, the Ministry of Skills Development runs Ontario's skills development offices, which provide a training consulting service throughout the province. Many of the small businesses are not as sophisticated in getting their own training, and our consultant goes out. "Small business" is defined as meaning those businesses that have fewer than 200 employees.

We consult with them, provide training programs and direct them to where the proper training programs are. Of course, there are many programs in the community colleges that are directed to bringing skilled workers to the small businesses.

Mr. Mahoney: It seems to me that the Premier's Council report has demonstrated the need for training in skills development if we are to continue to be competitive in a global sense, in that the free trade agreement will obviously displace workers all over this country. How is the ministry planning to deal with this future need for skilled workers in different areas of this province as a result of the displacements under the free trade agreement?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I want to inform the honourable member that the Premier established the industrial restructuring commissioner to look into companies that are being folded and to make the adjustment for those employees who are being displaced by such an event.

We know too that my ministry has a transition program in which we provide \$5,000 in vouchers for those employees to seek retraining.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Reville: My question is for the Treasurer. In December, the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) said, "For too long, the Health ministry could just as easily have been known as the Ministry of Illness or the Ministry of Institutions." She also said her ministry had "made a commitment to redirect our efforts away from simply the treatment of illness and towards the promotion of health and prevention of disease."

Can the Treasurer tell us how his budget in respect of the Ministry of Health keeps that commitment, given that there is nothing to expand community health services, nothing for health promotion, nothing for community mental health and nothing to support independent living for seniors and the disabled—just a heck of a lot more money for institutions?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: And doctors. I think the fact that we are providing hospitals and doctors is surely the fulfilment of the basic responsibility in response to our medicare commitments. The fact that there is about \$12 million that comes under the direct jurisdiction of the honourable minister fills me with a good deal of confidence. Her own judgement and ability is second to none. I know that all members of the House would agree with me in that regard.

Mr. Reville: I do not know how the Treasurer can be confident and at the same time say that the escalation in health care cost is putting at risk other social and economic priorities. But I do want to get to the Treasurer's taunt about the doctors, and I am going to talk about proportions of the health care budget so that he will not lecture me on the constant dollar situation or this kind of dollar thing.

Mr. Speaker: To what length are you going on this?

Mr. Reville: I have to get the ground rules clear or he will not answer my question.

The Treasurer will be aware, I think, that in the last 10 or 11 years the proportion of money spent on community and public health has actually declined significantly. On the other hand, the proportion of money going to doctors, laboratories and drug companies is increasing, also dramatically.

Is the Treasurer not just a little bit concerned that the average OHIP payment to doctors has gone up by 63 per cent in five years, while the proportion of the health care budget going to community and public health is declining significantly?

Mr. Speaker: That is a good question.

Mr. Reville: What about it?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I share the honourable member's concern. What is in train, as far as the government is concerned, is the council chaired by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) himself. The vice-chairman is the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) herself, and there is participation by the Ontario Medical Association in the person of their immediate past president, a very well known and capable person, as well as worthies from the broader health care community. While I would not for a moment say they are going to come up with an easy answer, I would think that from that group will come the best answer to see that we continue to provide the very best hospital and medical care as efficiently as possible.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. Jackson: My question is for the Minister of Education. All public and separate school boards in Ontario have submitted their 1988 amount of school board tax requirement notices with their municipalities by March 31. In the process of doing that, school boards were totally unaware of and therefore did not budget the amounts of increases which the Treasurer announced yesterday.

The minister obviously, as a member of privy council, had the information. Could he advise this House, and therefore all school boards in this province, what the impact of the retail sales tax increase and the gasoline tax, just to name two of the many increases, will have on school board municipal tax expenditures this year?

Hon. Mr. Ward: The member asks me for some precise detail which I do not have at my disposal today, in terms of the impacts. In response, I can say this government's transfers to school boards this year are so generous that I am very confident they will have no difficulty meeting those minor additional requirements as a result of those impacts.

Mr. Jackson: The minister is aware that general legislative grants generally are down for most of the school boards in this province. Many school boards are passing on double-digit municipal tax increases this year as a direct result of the shortfall in anticipated revenue and because of increased enrolments.

The Halton Board of Education has concluded that the impact of the Treasurer's statement yesterday will cost about \$500,000 to the taxpayers. Given that the minister asserts he supports quality education and given that the school board cannot change its budget at this

point, does he advise the Halton school board trustees, on the one hand, to reduce educational services by \$500,000 in the Halton board, or does he recommend that they overexpend and next year pass on, say, a 13 per cent increase?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Ward: In all fairness, I think I do have to correct the member for Burlington South in some of the statements he has just made, referring, in his opinion, to the fact that grant levels for some school boards may have decreased in this province.

As I indicated to an earlier question, grants to school boards in this province increased by some 7.2 per cent. The member, as a former trustee, will know that throughout Ontario assessments are equalized for school board grant purposes, so that boards which have increases in assessment have subsequent offsets in terms of the level of grant.

With specific reference to the Halton board, previously this member indicated that the board suffered some sort of shortfall as a result of the utilization of new equalization factors. I would point out to the member that the Halton board was indeed a beneficiary of a windfall in excess of \$400,000 as a result of the new equalization factors. I am quite sure it is well within their capabilities to provide quality education.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That seems like a fairly full answer.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr. Tatham: My question is for the Minister of the Environment on landfill tipping fees.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Oxford would like to place his question.

Mr. Tatham: In 1987, the average tipping fee at 80 sanitary landfills was \$20.36 per ton. That is up by 51.6 per cent from 1986. These fees range from \$3.15 a ton in Boise, Idaho, to \$65 a ton in North Andover, Massachusetts. The increased tipping fees are placing pressure on the municipalities, which are having trouble meeting the additional cost. What advice does the minister have to help the municipalities out?

Mrs. Grier: It is about time they paid the real cost of landfill, isn't it?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Exactly. The member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) assists me in the answer and she is absolutely right, because it is time people recognize that the tipping fee should reflect the real cost of landfill sites.

Those costs, of course, include the proper planning and operation and the ultimate closure and perpetual care of the particular site. Too often in the past, it seemed to me we had tipping fees that simply did not take all of those things into consideration; it was just assumed this was cheap because there was a hole in the ground somewhere. People recognize today that it takes a lot more scrutiny from several levels of government, particularly the Ministry of the Environment, when getting an approval for a landfill site.

We are, however, supporting a number of waste management initiatives. One of those is the recycling program in Ontario. We support the four Rs, including reduction, and that is an ultimate solution to proper waste management.

We see these benefits being reflected in a greater percentage of the material that would normally go into landfill sites being diverted from those landfill sites. Ultimately, that is a cost saving to a municipality.

Mr. Tatham: Another opportunity, Minister. Is there any financial assistance that can be provided to the municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The answer to that is yes. When I spoke of recycling, for instance, the municipalities would know that now in 1988 they have five years of assistance provided to them, rather than the previous three years, in terms of a startup of a recycling program. We also have WIMP, WMMP and FAP as additional ones. They are the waste improvement management program, the waste management master plan and the financial assistance program.

I have a statistic that the House will be interested in from these programs which assist municipalities. The amount of waste diverted from this disposal, and this is from recycling, has increased from a mere 51,000 tons in the fiscal year 1984-85 to an estimated 100,000 tons in the current year. Our provincial funding has increased for municipal recycling programs from \$750,000 to—in the new budget this year—\$7.7 million. I could go on, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate that very much, and no doubt you will have another opportunity.

FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon). I was very glad that in his response to earlier questions he talked about the need to look at the record prior to 1985 and he also talked about the need to think in terms of constant dollars.

I am sure the Treasurer is aware that in 1981-82 spending for the Ministry of the Environment was \$345 million. If that level of spending was to be maintained, the Treasurer would have had to spend \$465 million in the fiscal year 1988-89.

In yesterday's budget, the Treasurer talked about the government's recognition of the importance of a clean environment. Given that, can the Treasurer explain why, in constant dollars, he has actually reduced spending on the environment by \$40 million?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The planned expenditure for this year is \$426 million, as the honourable member has indicated, which is a 15.8 per cent year-over-year improvement, which I think is quite significant. As a matter of fact, it might even be a bit much. But the \$40 million the honourable member refers to, if in fact it exists in any real terms, has to be made up by the increased efficiency that we have all recognized in the new administration.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Farnan: My office continues to be deluged with requests to continue to press the government on the issue of Sunday shopping. I have petitions here that are signed from Thunder Bay, Scarborough and Toronto. The first of these is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an

added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and wstated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to listen to the people of Ontario; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Again, I have attached my name to this petition and I pass it on to the Clerk.

Mr. Philip: I have a petition signed by a number of people, collected by one of the merchants in the riding of Etobicoke-Rexdale. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of Sunday life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have signed the petition.

I have another petition, which reads differently, as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families."

I have signed the petition.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a petition signed by 26 residents of our province who are concerned

about this government's not listening on this issue. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of our people throughout the province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have added my name to this petition and I will pass it to the Clerk.

I also have a second petition expressing concern about this government's unwillingness to listen on this issue. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers,

groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

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"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I support this petition and hope the government will act to see that we have hearings open to the public on this important issue. I have signed it and it has been forwarded.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition here from a gentleman who wanted to know if this government ever listened to petitions and what people wanted. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have signed this petition and I submit it to the chair.

I have a second petition signed by a number of people in the city of Toronto and the borough of Markham.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

Hon. Mrs. Smith: You enunciate so nicely.

Mr. Mackenzie: Do you remember your position on this previously, Joan?

"We, the undersigned beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the

legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Signed by five good citizens of the city of Toronto and the borough of Markham. I sign my name to this and turn it over to the chair.

Ms. Bryden: I am proud to present to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the

Legislature of Ontario a petition signed by two residents of the city of Toronto on the subject of Sunday shopping. The petitioners state as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays, to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue, and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario:

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"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities and, therefore, dumps responsibility for regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans, none the less, to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more and not less difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intention is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with the right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of a strong trade union representation, disputes over whether an individual's and/or company's actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of the

workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

I have signed this petition, I support it and I am pleased to present it to the Legislature.

Mr. Swart: I have a couple of petitions here that you have been anticipating, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to read them into the record at this time. The first one is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it says:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

That is signed by 12 people, most of them from the Rexdale area of Toronto.

I have another petition to present, which is also addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and says as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on

working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'; and

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This is signed by four people in the Toronto area, and I have affixed my signature to it and will send it to the table along with the other petitions.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is a pleasure to be speaking today and introducing petitions seven days after the government indicated that it was going to introduce legislation which would hurt people's rights in terms of Sunday working and Sunday shopping.

Mr. Ballinger: Sunday rest.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Sunday rest for some of us.

The Deputy Speaker: And the petition reads?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is a petition, sir, signed by a number of people, primarily from the city of Toronto, who were attending an education forum I sponsored a week or so ago. It reads as follows:

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"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987"—less than a year ago, I add parenthetically—"as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government';"—a pre-election notion for one party, I add parenthetically—"and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;"—now, of course, they have less money to spend together, as a result of the budget, I add parenthetically.

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I will affix my signature.

I have two different petitions, albeit on the same subject, this matter of Sunday shopping. The first is signed by 24 members of the Rexdale Alliance Church and it is, unfortunately, brief.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:"

Mr. Mahoney: You can't do it parenthetically.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I may, parenthetically, be encouraged by members of the government party to add a few extra comments, but in order to follow standing order 31, I will not do so; that would be inappropriate. Instead, I will read as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I will affix my signature and read the third variation on a wonderful theme. It is signed by several residents of Toronto and it is worded as follows—no, no, Mr. Speaker, you are not going to be replaced. We do not want you to be replaced. I want you to understand that. I just saw a Deputy Speaker hiding in the wings and I was afraid you were about to be replaced, and I wanted to make sure that, under standing order 31(b), I stuck to the petition.

The Deputy Speaker: And it reads?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As it should:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:"

All those who wish to send in petitions should know that is how you should make them out.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987"—after a somewhat better budget than we just saw, I add parenthetically—"as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'"—

Mr. Pelissero: Are you a licensed parenthetic?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, but I think there should be a college of parentheses.

The Deputy Speaker: And it reads?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: "Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The committee strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'; and

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families.'"

I cannot help but believe that the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) had a really major part in that particular quotation.

Interjection.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The select committee's section on women being adversely affected.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am sure you had a major role in writing that.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Read your petition through the Speaker.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I keep forgetting. I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I was at this position:

"Whereas the report continued as follows"—this is the report of the committee, Mr. Speaker, in case you have lost the drift—"Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society;"—a report, I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that was signed by the Solicitor General of Ontario—"and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I will affix my signature, and although I have many more to read, I will give somebody else a chance to exercise his vocal cords.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I will sign my name to it, and I have one other—for now.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

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"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and"—

Interjection.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Maybe the member for London South (Mrs. Smith) could come and join us and help read some of these. She will get like—I can almost memorize these at this point.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. And the petition reads?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, it would not be out of line because the member for London South did sign the select committee's report.

The Deputy Speaker: Are you ready?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in the committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely

to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

It is signed by one person from Smithville, Ontario.

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition. It is addressed to to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

It is signed by 12 residents of Etobicoke, and I am happy to put my name on that petition.

I have an additional petition I would like to read. This one is also addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We therefore urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I support the sentiments indicated in that petition.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a number of petitions here. I think this is from the People's Church in Hamilton.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the lap of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and—

I say to the the Solicitor General, I think it was unanimous, right?

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase the existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend their time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I am pleased to sign that, and I have another one to follow. It is interesting to see the back-benchers and ex-cabinet ministers who are on House duty on the government side.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:"

Interjections.

Mr. Mackenzie: How come my friends got stuck? Back-benchers? They are almost back-benchers.

The Deputy Speaker: The petition reads?

Mr. Mackenzie: I apologize for being interrupted like that. The petition reads: "Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and"—

An hon. member: Get the air cleaned up.

Mr. Mackenzie: The member might try putting gasoline in the vent again. Somebody did it yesterday.

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"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987," just 11 months ago, "as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and

strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I am pleased to sign my name to that petition, and we will let somebody else have a chance. We should be good for another week or so.

Mr. Swart: I have a raft of petitions here to present. I am surprised that the members of the Liberal Party do not take their turn in presenting petitions.

The Deputy Speaker: The petition reads?

Mr. Swart: Yes, I will read this to you, Mr. Speaker, but I am sure they must have a lot hiding in their desks, because they are getting these all across the province.

This is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and, I am sure, reads the same as many of those received by members who will not present them here in this House. It starts off:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and"—

Mr. Haggerty: We have horse racing on Sunday, bingo—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Swart: I've seen you coming out of the bingo parlours, too.

The Deputy Speaker: The petition continues?

Mr. Swart: The petition continues as follows, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for bringing me back to it:

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing

on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

That is signed by Marie Hallaway. Madam Speaker, I am just going to sign this myself. Do not give my spot to anybody else.

I have another petition that a person wants me to present here as well. This petition is addressed also, as it should be, to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is somewhat similar to the last one, as it says:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported

unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

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That is signed by Wesley Packham of RR 2, Ancaster, Ontario. From all across this province, people are petitioning this government to back off. I will sign this and then I will turn this in and let one of my other colleagues speak, or perhaps the Liberal members, who must have all kinds of petitions that they refuse to bring before this Legislature because they are so embarrassed.

Mr. Allen: In keeping with the most profound traditions of parliamentary democracy, it is a privilege to read a petition bearing 27 names from west Toronto which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

As I said, this contains 27 names. I have affixed my name to it and I send it to the Clerk in the hands of the page. I have a further petition, and this is signed by persons who reside in the rural district around Ancaster, Ontario. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's

intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have affixed my name to this petition and I send it, at the hands of the page, to the table of the Clerk.

Mr. Laughren: There have been so many petitions read that the pages have memorized them. I can see them mouthing the words as we go.

This is a petition against Sunday shopping and against the parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature," including the Liberals, "reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows"—

Mr. Polsinelli: Half of us weren't around then.

Mr. Laughren: You were; the parliamentary assistant was around then.

"The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario"—Madam Speaker, I wish I could editorialize on that quote, but I know you would not want me to do so—"and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report commented as follows on the impact of wide-open Sunday retailing on working people and working families: 'The

committee," and this is the all-party legislative committee, "strongly believes that wide-open Sunday shopping in Ontario would represent an added pressure in our fast-paced society and a strain upon the family structure'"—

Mr. Polsinelli: What committee was that?

Mr. Laughren: That was the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, an all-party committee that made a unanimous report, including the Liberals.

"Whereas it continued: 'This strain would be imposed particularly on the families of retail employees, many of whom are women, who might then be required to work on Sunday. The committee also believes that wide-open Sunday shopping would have an adverse impact upon common time together for primarily female-led, single-parent families'"—

Mr. Polsinelli: I'd love to debate that report.

Mr. Laughren: Well, if the member wants to debate the report, he would also be debating a lot of his own members who signed that report.

"Whereas the report continued as follows: 'Similarly, it is recognized that on Sunday, child care facilities are not generally available, public transit operates on reduced schedules, and open Sundays could lead to the need for more publicly sponsored family support services. All of these factors would impose unwarranted and unnecessary strain upon the family, which is regarded as a key pillar of Ontario society'; and

"Whereas the Ontario government submitted a report prepared by its own women's directorate to the 1987 annual conference of ministers responsible for the status of women, and that report noted the need for greater government sensitivity to changes in hours of work and hours of business in terms of 'recognizing the need for time to be set aside when all families can be together' and the need to 'ensure that common time off is set aside when all families can be together'; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act, to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours, to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

In other words, they are opposed to Sunday shopping. There are four signatures on this petition, all from the same address, plus mine.

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition which is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

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In addition, I have another petition on the same subject, which reads—

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): One moment. Before you proceed with that petition, is the first one going to be signed and presented?

Mrs. Grier: I am sorry. I was just trying to speed things up. I am doing them two at a time.

The Acting Speaker: Please continue with your next petition.

Mrs. Grier: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation relating to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

Mr. Reville: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

This petition is signed by 11 petitioners from the Weston-Rexdale area. I have appended my own name thereto and I present that. In the interest of saving time, I have another one, which reads in this fashion:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the

legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

This petition was originally signed by two residents of Cambridge, one of whom has crossed her name off it. I take it she has changed her mind. So there is one signature on there and I have endorsed it, as is required.

The Acting Speaker: Are there further petitions? The member for Cambridge.

Mr. Farnan: I have a petition. It is—
Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Cambridge has the floor. I would hope that all members would allow him to proceed with his petition.

Mr. Farnan: I have a petition signed by 45 citizens of the province. It is addressed:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

It is with great pleasure that I attach my name to this petition. I will hand it over to the page for delivery to the Clerk.

The Acting Speaker: Any further petitions? The member for Scarborough West.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The competition is so furious for it that I was not sure. As a result, I will just read one of my short ones so that the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) can get up. It is on behalf of people of the city of Toronto and reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:"—there are two on this particular petition. I have no idea what the total is now, but it must be quite considerable. We will try to get that information for the members as quickly as we can.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Please continue.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Two educationalists in the city of Toronto.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows:"—and I quote from the Solicitor General, who no doubt wrote this part—"The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario"; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report

was as follows:"—shepherded as it was by the Solicitor General—"The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government"; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously'"—I presume that includes the Solicitor General presently—"rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario"; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;"—and that is important to all of us, is it not?

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I will sign my name to this and allow the member for Hamilton West to get up in his rightful order.

The Acting Speaker The member from Hamilton West.

Mr. Allen: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. No one more than yourself, who is a product of the parliamentary tradition and the democratic assumptions which go with it, would be more appreciative of the fact that we are reading petitions from Her Majesty's loyal subjects into the record on this particular issue, which is so dear to their hearts and so close to their working lives and their own families' very existence.

I have a further petition of 39 names from a number of residents of Etobicoke. This is straight to the point. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I put my name to this document, as required under the standing orders of this House, and I give it to the page to take to the table of the Clerk.

I have a further petition as well, which is signed by a lady in Hamilton, and it reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in

Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have put my name to this petition, and I send it by the hand of the page to the table of the Clerk.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition here from some residents of Etobicoke.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

It is signed by 16 citizens, I believe, of the riding of Etobicoke. I have another one, also from residents of the city of Toronto. It reads as follows:

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"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

It is signed by eight residents of the city of Toronto, and I also sign that. I have a further one with 12 or 13 signatures from the city of Toronto.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I am pleased to sign that.

Mr. Swart: A few moments ago, I read a petition from a Mr. Packham at 1287 Trinity Road in Ancaster. Now I have one from his wife. I understand there are two reasons why they put in separate petitions. One is that they want to emphasize their strong feeling against Sunday shopping—

The Acting Speaker: Would you please continue with the petition; the contents thereof?

Mr. Swart: Do you want to know the other reason? Because she is a feminist and she believes in equality, she wants a petition of her own. I support her in that.

The Acting Speaker: Would you please proceed with the petition?

Mr. Swart: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing

on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I will sign this, as is required, by a member of this Legislature. I fully endorse the sentiments expressed in this petition. Perhaps I can be permitted to present another one.

The Acting Speaker: Please proceed.

Mr. Swart: Thank you.

Mr. South: How about the story of your father buying the horse?

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Swart: I would tell the member another one in the same vein, but I think the Speaker might interrupt. That would be a possibility, would it not?

The Acting Speaker: Certainly. Please proceed with your petition.

Mr. Swart: Thank you. Surprisingly, this is worded somewhat similarly to the last one and addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

That is signed by Sylvia Baker and Wayne Baker. They thought they would have more impact if they both signed the same petition,

working as a team. I will now sign this and turn it over to the page, who will take it to the Clerk's table.

The Acting Speaker: Are there further petitions? The member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

Mrs. Grier: A lot more petitions, Madam Speaker. I have one addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

This petition is signed by a number of residents of Etobicoke-Rexdale.

The Deputy Speaker: Do you have another petition to read?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The most mellifluous voice of the lot, BBC quality.

Mrs. Grier: Yes, I have another petition and I am happy to tell the House leader that it is Radio Eireann he is hearing, not the BBC.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

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"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows"—

Mr. Laughren: Seventeen?

Mrs. Grier: Yes, 17.

—“The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government”; and

“Whereas the report also said, ‘The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario’; and

“Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

“Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government’s intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

“Whereas the government’s stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

“We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario.”

I am pleased to sign that petition.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Nickel Belt, please.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to see you in the chair again.

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government’s proposed Sunday shopping legislation.”

I have signed that and would send it to the table.

I have another petition. They are coming in faster than we can read them.

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

“Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government’s intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don’t want it; and

“Whereas the Legislature’s select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: ‘The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario’; and

“Whereas the first of 17”—count them; 17—“unanimous recommendations contained in that committee’s report was as follows: ‘The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government’; and

“Whereas the report also said, ‘The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario’; and

“Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

“Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government’s intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

“Whereas the government’s stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

“We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the

buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have affixed my name to this petition quite proudly and forward it to the Clerk's table.

I have one other petition I would like to read at this moment. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We believe in the importance of keeping Sunday as a common pause day, so that all people may have physical, spiritual and social health. We are concerned about the quality of life and the wellbeing of the people of our province and we object to the further commercializing of life through the Liberal government's proposed Sunday shopping legislation."

I have signed this petition and forward it to the table.

The Deputy Speaker: Other petitions? The member for Hamilton East.

Mr. Mackenzie: Sorry. I was sleeping at the switch a little bit there. I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to repeal the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the first of 17 unanimous recommendations contained in that committee's report was as follows: 'The primary responsibility for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, or other legislation related to retailing on holidays, should remain that of the provincial government'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

It is signed by a lady in my own riding, on Rosseau Road, in Hamilton. I am pleased to sign this and submit it to the chair.

The Deputy Speaker: Do you have some more petitions? Are there any other petitions?

MOTION

COMMITTEE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the select committee on constitutional reform be authorized to meet, in the morning and following routine proceedings on Wednesday, April 27, 1988.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Fleet: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if we could have unanimous consent to revert to reports.

The Deputy Speaker: There is not unanimous consent.

Motion negatived.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

RETAIL BUSINESS HOLIDAYS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Conway moved, on behalf of Hon. Mrs. Smith, first reading of Bill 113, An Act to amend the Retail Business Holidays Act.

The Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Call in the members.

1712

Friday, April 22, 1988

1600

Mr. Speaker: I have been advised by representatives of all three parties in the House that a vote will not take place before at least 8:30 a.m. on Monday, April 25.

I am therefore suspending the sitting, and the bells are deemed to be ringing until the sitting is resumed at 8:30 a.m. on Monday next.

Mr. Speaker suspended proceedings at 4:01 p.m.

Monday, April 25, 1988

1310

The House divided on Hon. Mrs. Smith's motion for first reading of Bill 113, An Act to amend the Retail Business Holidays Act, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Curling, Dietsch, Elliot, Elston, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Furlong, Grandmaître, Haggerty, Hart, Henderson, Hošek, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kwinter, Leone, Lipsett, Lupusella;

MacDonald, Mahoney, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, McLeod, Miclash,

Miller, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Offer, O'Neil, H., O'Neill, Y., Oddie Munro, Owen, Patten, Phillips, G., Poirier, Poole, Ramsay, Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Ruprecht, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, South, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wilson, Wrye.

Nays

Allen, Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Cunningham, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Marland, Martel, McCague, McLean, Philip, E., Pollock, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Sterling, Swart.

Ayes 75; nays 27.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would like to indicate the business of the House for the week of April 25.

This afternoon, we will consider government notice of motion 11 standing in the name of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon).

On Tuesday, April 26, we will hear the budget responses of the official opposition and the third party.

On Wednesday, April 27, and Thursday, April 28, we will have a general debate on the budget motion. At 10 a.m. on Thursday, we will consider private members' ballot items standing in the names of the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) and the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves).

There may be additional business which I will be announcing later in the week.

The House adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

- Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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No. 51

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Monday, April 25, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, April 25, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WINE INDUSTRY

Mr. Swart: On the weekend, Brian Nash, the chairman of the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board, confirmed that at least 15 grape growers in the Niagara Peninsula have walked away from their vineyards because they were refused their normal spring operating loans. The greater loan risk this year is caused of course by the iniquitous Mulroney-Reagan free trade agreement and the weak-kneed Conservative government's acceptance of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ruling before the European wine and grape subsidies had been dealt with.

At both the federal and this provincial level, there seems to be some willingness to trade off the grape and wine industry for some hope of preserving other alcohol, agriculture and lumber industries. Certainly, the banks deserve to be condemned for withholding the loans to grape growers. After all, the free trade deal is not yet a fait accompli, nor is the price undercutting of Ontario wines by the Europeans a certainty if we get a courageous federal government which will insist that heavy subsidies in Europe and the United States be factored into their prices.

Also, grape growers have been traditionally the very best of risk for the banks. To cut them off now is unconscionable.

This Liberal government had better prove itself too. Today, I am calling on the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to institute immediately a grape growers' preservation guarantee fund which will assure the provision of normal operating loans to growers who cannot get the money from traditional sources. Further, this party demands that the Ontario government be much more vigorous in its battle to preserve the grape and wine industry. Its defeatist attitude must be reversed.

SUPPORT AND CUSTODY ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Cousens: The fundamental cornerstone of our legal system is that a person is presumed to

be innocent until proven guilty. The rights of all citizens in this province have to be upheld. When the government of Ontario—in particular, the Ministry of the Attorney General—is presuming guilt with certain individuals, it is a matter of very serious concern, certainly to all people, and should be to members of this Legislature.

Thus, I have serious concerns about the support and custody enforcement branch of the Ministry of the Attorney General in undermining the fundamental rights of Canadians. They are engaging in the following: issuing written warnings to payers who are not in default. These are fathers who are paying alimony. They are receiving warnings from the Attorney General's department when in fact they are not in default. The Attorney General's department is refusing to hear submissions from accused debtors before imposing legal actions.

The Attorney General's department is using heavy-handed enforcement methods, imposing the maximum penalty of 50 per cent garnishments routinely, without tailoring these actions to the degree of the problem. As well, this department is incurring the anger of provincial courts, which are expressing their distress at the errors that are going on from within this ministry. Disputes are not being settled out of court; in fact, they are being escalated by the Attorney General's department.

We in this Legislature must all—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired.

1996 OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES

Mr. Faubert: The year 1996 will be the 100th anniversary of the modern Olympic Games. In founding the modern era of the games, Baron de Coubertin, stressing what is known as the Olympic ideal and epitomizing the spirit of Olympism and culture, established what has become a mutual sharing of respect, sportsmanship and competition among the nations of our world.

Although that idealism has been somewhat bruised across the passage of time, it is only fitting that the 100th anniversary games of 1996 be held in their birthplace. Few people around the world will disagree that Athens, Greece, is a sentimental and emotional choice for 1996.

Although the overwhelming sentimental favourite, there has been a continuing question about the economic ability of Athens to host the 1996 summer games. I quote from Paul Henderson, chairman of the Toronto Ontario Olympic Council, in Saturday's Toronto Star: "If the Greeks put their act together I think they'll get it...All things being equal (between Toronto and Athens), the emotion will carry the day."

With the recently announced \$2.5-billion infusion of capital assistance from the European Community to Athens, which will be going into improvements to the international airport, resolution of transportation problems and construction of new athletic facilities, Athens will not only be a sentimental choice but a practical one as well.

The Toronto Ontario Olympic Council bid continues to be an excellent one for Toronto and Ontario, but with the realization that it could also be laying the groundwork for a bid for the games of the year 2000.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Mrs. Grier: In 1976, this province passed the Environmental Assessment Act. This act recognizes that the people of Ontario want projects with potentially massive effects on the environment to be subject to rigorous public review.

Ten years' experience with the act showed that it had some major deficiencies. These were clearly laid out in a report by the Canadian Environmental Law Research Foundation in 1986. Now, a year and a half later, nothing concrete has been done by this government to improve the Environmental Assessment Act.

Last week, the minister launched what he calls the environmental assessment program improvement project. This appears to be a tentative and long-drawn-out process of reinventing the wheel that the research foundation got rolling in 1986. Their report outlined specific recommendations for making the act more workable. They are recommendations that the minister could have circulated for comment at least a year ago.

It is vital that the current review of the act does not lead to compromises on its fundamental basis. Better still, the minister should announce immediately that he will implement a key recommendation of the 1986 report, i.e., that a mechanism be found to bring all private sector projects under the Environmental Assessment Act. That was the original intent of the act when it was passed 12 years ago. The environment does not distinguish between pollution from

public or private sectors, and neither should our environmental assessment process.

WATER POLLUTION

Mrs. Marland: On Thursday, April 28, the Ministry of Natural Resources will introduce 20,000 pre-smolt Atlantic salmon into the Credit River. Atlantic salmon have been absent from the river for about 100 years. Each year, thousands of people from Canada and the United States come to Mississauga to fish for salmon in the Credit River and Lake Ontario. Mississauga takes great pride in its great salmon hunt and other fishing derbies.

While I am delighted that the Ministry of Natural Resources will be stocking the Credit River, I have some concerns. The Ministry of Natural Resources, by its own admission, warns that "until Lake Ontario is cleaned up, the fish will be inedible and should be thrown back." This admission by the ministry is just another sad example of the lack of attention being given to the very real crisis of water quality in our rivers and Lake Ontario. While sports fishermen will come to Mississauga for the thrill of challenging the salmon, they are being deprived of one of the real joys of salmon fishing, and that is bringing home of the catch.

While the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) was quick to raise taxes and make great promises about environmental initiatives, we see the glaring reality of inaction on the part of this government to clean up its act. Pollution continues to flow, fish continue to die and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) continues to float helplessly upside down in a cesspool of dribble.

SUTTON DAM

Mr. Ballinger: As the member for Durham-York, I will later today be presenting a petition with 1,287 names on it and, much to the dismay of our New Democrat and Tory friends, it has absolutely nothing to do with Sunday shopping. This petition is from my constituents in the town of Georgina who have been fighting for years for the replacement of the now infamous Sutton Dam.

Yesterday, which coincidentally was a Sunday and a day on which most politicians do work, I met on site with the mayor of Georgina as well as many business people and residents of Sutton to formally receive this very important and worthwhile petition. Its purpose is to convince the Ministry of Natural Resources to allow the municipality to construct a new dam in the place

of the original one, which was washed out several years ago leaving an unsightly and useless swamp in the heart of downtown Sutton.

1340

These constituents who collected the names for the petition are not asking for anything they are not already entitled to. They simply want what they had before, the dam on the Black River that for decades has not only enhanced the downtown core of Sutton, but also acted as one of the many tourist attractions of the Lake Simcoe area.

It is also my understanding that if permission to construct the dam is not forthcoming from the ministry, the residents of Georgina are going to rename the riverbed the Ballinger Bog.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

SCHOOL FUNDING

Hon. Mr. Ward: Last Wednesday, my colleague the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) tabled the 1988 Ontario budget, and in so doing served notice of this government's support for a significant long-term investment in the educational capital stock of this province.

We believe that education is linked intrinsically to the future wellbeing of Ontario's economy. As the Premier's Council has recently pointed out with great insight, the 21st century will be "a time when most new wealth will be found between our ears, rather than beneath our feet." We must prepare our children today to perform and adapt well in a rapidly changing technological and communications-based global economy. If we are to display continuing leadership and maintain our pre-eminence in the field of education, we must invest and reinvest in our capital stock. This is a prerequisite to the excellence we expect. Our young people deserve no less.

Ontario's population is increasing rapidly, a phenomenon complicated by demographic changes and geographic shifts. In many school boards circling Metro Toronto, for example, the student population is swelling at a rate of 10 per cent per year.

Years of capital neglect have left this government with an enormous challenge but, in response, this government has demonstrated its commitment to education by first doubling, then tripling, and now, in the 1988 budget, quadrupling the annual amount spent on school capital when we took office.

Last week, the Treasurer affirmed the provision of a \$900-million, three-year grant commitment that will enable school boards to undertake

\$1.3 billion worth of capital construction. This three-year program will enable us to plan and build our elementary and secondary system in a sensible and confident manner. It will allow us to direct our resources to the area of most critical need, the creation of new pupil places.

Since taking office, this government has created more than 78,000 new pupil places, in addition to providing significant allocations for renovations and renewals. We take pride in this achievement, but it has only begun to address the true needs we observe. To meet these needs, we expect that our three-year capital plan will support the creation of a further 110,000 new pupil places.

Tomorrow we will announce individual school projects to launch the first year of this plan. These announcements will involve provincial grant commitments of \$381 million and, when combined with local contributions, will produce \$504 million worth of capital projects over three years.

About 91 per cent, or \$347 million, of capital grant will be designated for new construction. We will therefore create approximately 45,000 new pupil places in Ontario in the first phase of our plan. Our first priority will be the creation of new pupil places in those growth areas where the need is the greatest.

As we allocate these funds, I wish to note that my ministry will work more closely with school boards to construct new facilities that will be adaptable to other community uses. Our schools can and must be accessible focal points for the communities they serve.

I would also like to reaffirm our commitment to the provision of child care facilities in every one of our new schools. I am delighted to indicate that more than \$15.5 million of our allocations will be directed to the creation of child care spaces.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to address all of this province's school capital needs at one time. With our major budget commitment, we will respect the priority of creating new pupil places in growth areas, and through careful long-range planning we will endeavour to ensure that needs not satisfied today will be addressed in a reasonable period of time in an atmosphere of fiscal responsibility. The process for determining which projects receive grants has been observed as follows: school boards rank their needs in order or priority, the ministry's regional offices then rank them on a regional basis and, finally, the ministry ranks the requests on the basis of province-wide needs.

I am proud of our government's major budget commitment to education. Our three-year plan will enable us to address our pressing space demands and permit us to continue with the challenges of assuring excellence in education in Ontario.

NORTHERN ONTARIO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I am pleased to introduce an interministerial solution to problems that have plagued children and families residing in the northern part of this province. My colleagues from the ministries of Education, Health and Northern Development have collaborated and jointly developed an improved method to provide professional services for northern Ontario children with special needs.

Together we have identified problems, reviewed existing resources and reviewed a number of other models of service delivery. The result goes a long way to providing a solution to the problems facing special needs children, especially those residing in rural and remote areas in northern Ontario.

Northern initiatives for children with special needs represent a long-term strategy which will improve assessment and treatment services for children in northern Ontario. Children with special and multiple needs will have co-ordinated and accessible services available to them. Northern children who experience physical, psychosocial, behavioural and educational problems will receive professional support and assistance as close as possible to their own communities. This initiative represents \$4.17 million in government spending this year and \$6.2 million annually.

Northern communities face severe shortages of professionals to respond to the special needs of children with physical, educational and emotional problems. The distribution and size of the population and long distances between communities create significant problems in relation to the allocation of scarce professional and program resources. In addition, the need for bilingual services in designated francophone communities challenges service providers.

This is an innovative model of service delivery that crosses the traditional service responsibilities of four ministries: Community and Social Services, Education, Health and Northern Development. It includes three major components: the development of three professional resource groups to serve children in rural and remote northern communities; the expansion of existing community resources to serve children with

multiple needs in the north's larger urban centres, and the expansion of the highly successful northern bursary program.

Three professional resource groups will be developed and consist of an interdisciplinary core of professionals. These will include psychiatrists, speech pathologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychologists and psychometrists, speech correctionists and teacher diagnosticians. These groups will travel outside of the north's major urban centres to offer needed assessment and treatment for children in remote and rural communities. Every effort will be made to ensure that children receive care in their own communities.

In the larger northern communities, existing professional and program resources will be expanded with the co-operation and consultation of northern community health and social service agencies. This effort will reduce the existing waiting lists and, in conjunction with the professional resource groups, serve children who experience multiple problems.

1350

The northern bursary program will be expanded to 60 bursaries to offer 30 more student awards to study at the doctoral level in psychiatry and psychology and the master's level in social work and speech pathology. This program has been operating since the early 1980s to offer students one year or more of bursary assistance in exchange for practice in the north.

Other features of the model ensure that bilingual services are available in designated areas and that program development is co-ordinated and monitored through an interministerial administrative structure.

The northern initiatives for children with special needs represent a new approach to the way we do business. Northern children with needs that extend beyond the mandate of a single ministry, especially in remote and rural areas, will now receive appropriate professional assessment and treatment services. This represents an improvement to the quality of life for children in northern Ontario.

RESPONSES

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I rise to respond to the statement today by the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward), to agree with him that it has been long overdue that the capital needs of the education system in Ontario were recognized, and to say that in some respects I believe his government has actually moved some way along

the way to recognizing that finally. I think that is a good thing.

I would, however, remind members that they should put this in perspective and not be bamboozled entirely by the figures. The boards of education of Ontario have indicated that we need \$1.7 billion now, right now, to house the kids properly in Ontario. This government is offering \$900 million over the next three years. In fact the money declines over the three-year period, so that in the third year presumably there will be less money being put in than there is even this year.

What the government has not told the House today, and which we need to hear, is how many kids will still be in portables during this period and how many kids are not going to be housed appropriately at the end of this three-year period. We need to have that response from the government before we proceed much farther.

I am disappointed to hear that all this money, except for nine per cent of it, in this year is going to the growth areas. Of that nine per cent, a portion is going to the good initiative of adding child care facilities in the various new schools around the province of Ontario.

However, there is nothing spoken of here in terms of capital money that should be made available to boards, Catholic and public, that are having difficulty with the implementation of Bill 30, to assist them and their communities to avoid some of the divisions we have seen in this province already, and which we are going to see if the government does not come forward with some money to allow them both to be seen to be winners.

The final thing I would say is that while we look to the Toronto region and the hub around Toronto that is growing so quickly, I want to remind the Minister of Education that there are boards throughout northern Ontario which for years now have been starved of capital funds, which have not even got the money to replace roofs on their buildings that badly need replacement. If he is only going to be leaving something like a total of \$30 million for the whole rest of the province, according to his figures for this year that he has just released today, he is not going to meet the needs of those northern and isolated boards which are so desperate for capital assistance at this time.

I implore the minister to free up the purse strings for them as well, not just where all the votes are now, around Metropolitan Toronto.

NORTHERN ONTARIO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Mr. Allen: I rise to respond to the announcement of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) of a special program responding to the needs of special-needs children in the north.

Special-needs children deserve our special attention everywhere and always, no matter where they are; but I remind the minister, as he knows very well, that our members from the north have called for a response to the pressing problems of specialized needs of young people in our school system and out of our school system, whether it is psychiatric help or psychological testing of one kind or another, whether it is speech therapy or other deficiencies that children there, as elsewhere, have.

We are delighted the minister has responded to this problem in a highly organized way and in what would appear to be an effective way. One would only comment that the statement is rather long on superlatives in terms of its adjectives and perhaps is a little short in detail on how it is all going to be delivered and accomplished, but then we understand those uses of language around here.

Might I also say that it has been obvious for some time what the components had to be, so one wonders how really innovative this is. It was obvious it had to be interministerial. It was obvious there had to be expansion of resources in major centres. It was obvious there had to be travel involved. When we put all that together, it is obvious the minister has struck on the obvious and his fellow ministerial colleagues have struck on the obvious and are finally responding to the issue we presented to them.

So congratulations to the minister. We hope the \$6 million is enough. We suspect it is not but we wish him well in getting on with the job.

Mr. Harris: I would like to respond briefly to the statement by the Minister of Community and Social Services. The minister ends up, "This represents a major improvement to the quality of life for children in northern Ontario." Of course it does not do that at all. This represents another statement from the government, hoping against all odds that it will evolve into an improvement in the quality of life for children in northern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Make that speech in the north.

Mr. Harris: The government has been good at statements. It has not been very good over the last

three years at delivering on any of those statements or fulfilling any of the objectives it is so good at getting out.

As well, I want to say that it is a pretty sad day when a minister gets up to make a statement that essentially says, "Our ministries are going to co-operate." If you really stop and think about it, the whole statement says: "We are not going to fight among ourselves. We are not going to argue who has jurisdiction here. We are not going to argue any more who gets his picture on the front page of the glossy brochure. We are actually going to try to co-operate." It is a sad commentary and the public surely has to be disappointed that this is the statement, but in fact it is true.

Interjections.

Mr. Harris: If "Yappy," the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine), wants to listen, I say it in a nonpartisan way because it is a problem. It was a problem when we were the government, it is a problem with the federal government, and of course it is a problem this government is facing as well.

For example, four years ago, the Nipissing Children's Mental Health Services was formed. They were given funding. They got started. They used the interdisciplinary approach. It was a very co-operative approach. For the last two years, they have been crying for a modest increase in the number of dollars required to make it work, and that is why I say we have a statement of intent. We have not had commitment for the last couple of years; we did not have commitment last year when their request for funding was denied. It is a perfect example the minister might want to look at of a small, bilingual community in northern Ontario where they are co-operating and working together, and the government has denied them the funds over the past few years.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Jackson: I am pleased to respond to the announcement by the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) in the House today, his budgetary announcement this year for next year's capital needs for Ontario schools. The minister quotes some interesting and somewhat conflicting statements in his announcement this afternoon. He indicates, of course, that this allocation of dollars is unprecedented, and yet the demands in Ontario are unprecedented.

Mr. Black: Cleaning up your mess.

Mr. Jackson: Well, there is no mess to the fact that all three political parties made a conscious decision that we would fund two public school systems in this province. We have

a commitment to separate school education. We have recently reaffirmed our commitment to francophone education in this province. But there is the fact of the numbers: On a \$1.7-billion request based on legitimate demands, the funding represents a 22 per cent commitment on their request, and 22 per cent is less than the percentage commitment last year and is on average the same commitment all governments have been making since the early 1980s.

In terms of the portable classroom spaces, the minister is painfully aware that there are 150,000 students in portables in Ontario. He says that his announcement will relieve the pressure for 110,000, and yet we have a 10 per cent increase in enrolment. In fact, the numbers of children in portables in the coming years will grow and will not be substantively reduced with those growth figures, which he admits in his statement. He announced that he has a new process in place for the selection of these capital facilities. There has been no change in the process.

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He indicates the priorities will be for growth boards. Does that mean the boards that have requirements under Bill 30 will do poorly? Did the children at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School give up their school in vain as a result of his setting priority growth boards?

The percentage the minister has committed has not changed, the process has not changed and the timing of his announcements has not changed. It is only a one-year announcement. Only the optics have changed.

ORAL QUESTIONS

INCOME TAX

Mr. B. Rae: I have some questions for the Treasurer about the theory that has been floated over the last few days, which is what I would call the devil-made-me-do-it budget, that he had another option which he was not allowed to undertake. I wonder if the Treasurer can give us some indication whether it is the case that he asked the Minister of Finance, Mr. Wilson, for permission to impose a so-called flat tax on some kind of income as per the income tax form. If so, I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us, was that to be a tax on total income—at the bottom on page 1 and top of page 2—or was it to be a tax on taxable income, as per the bottom of page 2, on the form with which the Treasurer is, I am sure, as familiar as we all are, given the time of year?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Yes, it is the case, and it was taxable income.

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if the Treasurer can confirm that for a family of four earning \$40,000, the retail sales tax increase would mean an additional expenditure of \$150, according to his officials, but this same family would pay about an extra \$300 under the flat-tax scenario. Is he aware of that?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The flat-tax procedure is very productive.

Mr. B. Rae: Very productive. I understand it is very productive from the point of view of the government that wants to put its hands in everybody's pockets, but not from the point of view of the family that is faced with a tax collector whose appetite knows no bounds, which is the appetite of the Treasurer.

I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us this: The stories that have been floated over the weekend say, for example, that the Treasurer is still interested in a flat-tax proposal for 1989-90—that is to say, next year—that this is something he intends to discuss. I wonder if the Treasurer can give us the assurance that in the event he does go to a flat tax, he will, as a consequence of that, reduce the retail sales tax by a similar amount.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I know the Leader of the Opposition will be aware that our tax credit system, which was entirely restructured in this budget, has gone a considerable distance to remove the unfairness in the retail sales tax. He may have something further to say about that, but obviously it is only people who were not prepared to look at the alternatives who would think the flat tax would be applied in the way he so gloomily predicts.

The revenue we have established in this budget is sufficient for what we need this year and should adequately fund our programs in the foreseeable future, but I am not prepared to give any assurance to the honourable member beyond the budget, which I understand we will begin debating this afternoon.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Minister of Health. The minister will no doubt be aware that she has received in her budget one of the most extraordinary increases in the history of the province. The same week as the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) was announcing that increase, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which I am sure the minister will know is just a two-block walk down the street on University Avenue and which is a chronic care hospital in the province, announced last week that it was accepting no new patients as of May 1 for chronic care. In speaking with the

director of the hospital, I was informed by him that there is a waiting list of 1,000 patients and that this makes a waiting list for some three years; it is a three-year-long waiting list.

At a time when her government is announcing the most extraordinary increases in capital, looking at the funding of a system the minister herself is describing as very expensive and the Treasurer is raising concerns about—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: —I wonder if the minister can explain how it is possible that hospitals would be making these kinds of announcements, causing what I am sure the minister would agree is incredible hardship for those families and those patients who are waiting to get into hospital.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The Leader of the Opposition will know that over the past three years we have made great strides in announcing additional chronic care beds—some 3,000 in the province—to meet the needs and that the capital budget of the Ministry of Health is second only to that of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Mr. B. Rae: I guess the minister did not catch the gist of my question. What is the point of allocating beds if we do not have the staff to care for those patients? There is a 15 per cent nursing shortage at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which is so severe that the administration of that hospital feels patient care would suffer if it continued to admit patients on the current basis. Ten beds have just been closed at the Princess Margaret Hospital, which has only 202 beds, because it does not have the staff there. We can go through hospital after hospital and show the minister where there are patients who are having their care delayed simply because there are not enough nurses on staff to provide the care that is needed.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if the minister can tell us how she can allow a situation where her capital budgets are expanding and she says she is creating new beds, yet patients are suffering more delays, and frankly, are having difficulty with their care precisely because there is a nursing shortage. What is the minister going to do to address that shortage now?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the Leader of the Opposition knows, this is an issue I expressed concern about very early on after my arrival at the Ministry of Health. I understand that the closures at the hospital he names are temporary and that the hospital is working actively towards solutions.

As well, shortly after my arrival, I reactivated the nursing manpower committee, which is addressing this cyclical problem. Nursing manpower issues, as well as health professional manpower issues, are ones I take very seriously and expect over the next little while to be able to address.

Mr. B. Rae: The Doctors Hospital in Toronto has vacancies for 20 nurses, the Ottawa Civic Hospital for 25 and the Mount Sinai Hospital for 15. Wellesley Hospital is 78 nurses short; Toronto General Hospital, 38; and the Humber Memorial Hospital, 27.

The minister told us in January that she was going to be addressing this problem. She told us in January that she was waiting to hear later that month and in early February from her manpower committee. I wonder if the minister can tell us why there has been no specific action taken to assure the families of this province that not only will there be beds and bricks and mortar available, but also that nurses will be there—able to work, wanting to stay in the profession and wanting to make nursing their career—that in fact caring is going to have priority with this government, and not just buildings and continuing to pour cash into the system when it is not improving the quality of the system.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The member will know that the shortage is not because of any one single factor and therefore cannot be corrected overnight. This is a cyclical problem. For example, the Ontario Nurses' Association has just negotiated successfully a three-year contract with the Ontario Hospital Association, making them the highest-paid nurses in Canada.

I will be meeting, in fact within the next two weeks, the Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower to look at what other initiatives and undertakings can be brought about. I believe the discussions are appropriate and I have had those discussions with the Ontario Hospital Association, as well as with nursing associations and hospital administrators, to make sure we can respond to those manpower needs in the future.

I want to thank the member for his interest and I want him to know that these discussions will be ongoing.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Premier. It relates to the budget, which I am pleased to say we are most happy to debate in this House, contrary to the views of the Treasurer who indicated that he knew everything we were about to say with respect to his budget anyway and

wanted to save us all that time and effort. But I am pleased to hear that we will be debating the budget.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Brandt: In our opinion, this budget, this unprecedented \$1.3-billion tax grab, will shift the tax burden more on to the poor, the lower-income families, who have less capacity to deal with these taxes, than on to people at higher income levels. That, in our opinion, is what the gasoline tax increase, the retail sales tax increase and the sin taxes will do.

1410

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Brandt: Given the condition of the current economy in Ontario, how can the Premier justify the largest tax grab in the history of this province?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the Treasurer could give the honourable member a full answer to that question.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The leader of the third party indicated that this is the largest tax grab in history. I want to indicate to him that his good friend and former leader, when he was Treasurer in 1981-82, had tax changes that occupied fully three quarters of one per cent of the gross provincial product. This tax change has to do with only half a per cent. That is surely the way to base it, because the values of the dollars have changed substantially.

The honourable member is also concerned about gasoline tax.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Listen, the boys at Earl's Shell Service were ecstatic. At least, that was one of the words they used.

Mr. Jackson: It's now a Becker store. That's why.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Once again going back to the bad old Tory years, which the leader of the third party seems to yearn for in his lack of foresight, the actual revenue increases in gasoline tax back in those years were: in 1982, a 23 per cent increase; in 1983, an 11.7 per cent increase, and in Larry Grossman's only budget, a full 10 per cent increase.

We were very glad to get away from that ad valorem approach so that at least when the gas tax is changed, we will bring it before the honourable members so that we can hear their views and then

have it settled in the democratic way by casting our votes.

Mr. Brandt: I too bought gas over the weekend and I know the impact of the Treasurer's budget on ordinary consumers in this province. I am glad he went back to the year 1982, because I want to quote to him from a speech delivered in 1982:

"What we saw in that budget was a change in the philosophy of taxation. We saw a move away from the progressive system, which we as Liberals believe in passionately, taxation that is based on the ability to pay, and we saw a major move towards flat consumption and regressive taxes."

In the light of that comment, which was given in this House in 1982, and the regressivity of the taxes that the Treasurer has brought in as a result of the budget he tabled in this House, how can he justify that level of tax increase, recognizing that it is a complete reversal of the position his Premier took in 1982?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It is not a reversal at all. The honourable member would know that because of good management in the government and in the Treasury, the sales tax, even with this one per cent increase, is not the highest in Canada by any means. Five provinces have higher sales taxes than we do. Even the government of Canada, in its rather strange manufacturers wholesale tax, increased the tax, and those related to it, in 1986 by an amount that raised out of Ontario for federal purposes a full \$1.6 billion. These changes, taken in all, raise this fiscal year only \$950 million.

Mr. Brandt: If the Treasurer is putting the province in the same economic position as other provinces that have a higher sales tax, then in fact I would like to see him put that position before the people of Ontario, because the economy here certainly justifies some kind of tax relief.

Let us make it clear by way of question that the one-cent increase in the sales tax is effectively a 14 per cent increase. That is what it is on the base. He took 14 per cent more in sales taxes. Now I have a very simple question. Based on the philosophy of the 94 Liberals as put forward by the 1982 statement of their Premier, does the Treasurer agree that an increase in the sales tax will effectively amount to an increase in municipal property taxes as well?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member would be aware that when we announced our transfers for municipalities last November and substantial enrichments in this budget, most municipalities, for reasons which I

respect, announced tax increases below four per cent. As a matter of fact, North York, I believe, announced a tax increase of less than three per cent, which is a clear indication that the support we are giving the municipalities is allowing many of them to have tax increases substantially lower than inflation.

I think that, while no one is satisfied with this budget except perhaps myself, our support is seen to be fair and equitable, and the tax changes the same. Perhaps I should save this for the honourable member's second question, but even having to do with the personal income tax, with the change that was announced, it really means that personal income tax payable in this jurisdiction for the lower spectrum of income and middle income is the second-lowest in Canada, and I am very proud of that fact.

Mr. Brandt: And it was the lowest before you were elected. It was the lowest before you came into office.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Harris: I can appreciate, after having seen the budget, why the Premier (Mr. Peterson) was sick on Thursday and also why he does not want to defend this budget in the House today.

Mr. Speaker: The question is to whom?

Mr. Harris: I had to get that in before I suggested my question is actually for the Minister of Northern Development, concerning his frequently announced but as yet unallocated northern Ontario heritage fund.

I wonder if the minister could tell us whether the annual commitment under his heritage fund is—not in fact \$30 million, when the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) indicated \$5 million would go into the northern Ontario regional development program—for this year, a new \$25 million for the fund. Could he confirm that and could he also confirm that the amount of money the government is gouging out of the north as a result of gasoline taxes and the softwood lumber tax is far more than the amount for its vaunted northern heritage fund?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I am pleased about the question from the member for Nipissing. I would like to say that what the Treasurer said was that the amount spent on Nordev is around \$5 million. What happened in Nordev is that it was a program that was brought into being by Mr. Bernier as a two-year program of \$10 million. We ran out of money a few years ago and we took the money from the northern development fund. Then this year, about three months ago, we ran out of money again, and I committed some

money from this fund to finish the year, first of all.

Second, I am asking for a sunset review of the program. When the board is formed, if it feels the program should continue, the board will decide at that time if the Nordev program shall continue.

Third, on the gas situation, we returned to the taxpayers of this province in the north last year—for the next five years—over \$70 million that we put aside for the roads and we added more money, another \$12 million this year, from the one-cent allocation. That is my answer to the member.

Mr. Harris: I assume that the minister did not want to comment on how much the budget is gouging out of the north; that he really does not have a clue as to the impact this budget has on northern Ontario.

We will leave the Nordev program and we will leave alone the fact that the new heritage program is a \$5-million cut, from \$30 million to \$25 million. Let me ask the minister this: As the minister representing northern Ontario, can he tell us how much more in additional taxes a northern Ontario driver will pay to his government as a result of the tax increases to the leaded and unleaded gasoline?

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Premièrement, je n'ai aucune révérence, aucune qualité à apprendre du député de Nipissing (M. Harris).

1420

I would like to remind the member for Nipissing that over all their years in power, they could not even move two jobs out of Toronto. When I arrived here, on the first visit I made to the Whitney Block, they were still doing the wire-cable testing for our mines, in this building over here. They could not even move that. I want to remind the members opposite that we are moving people from here to the north.

Mr. Sterling: How much, René?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: How much? Close to 2,000, and at a price of over \$200 million in buildings.

Mr. Sterling: How much will it cost, René? How much will it cost the people in the north?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Maybe half a million dollars.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Response.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Second, I do not want to answer the member for—which riding?

Mr. Speaker: Nipissing.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Carleton or the other one. They are just saying things and they do not know what they are talking about.

At one cent a gallon, it is about \$70 million. That was what we had last year and we added \$70 million for the next five years on roads. Plus, when I took over the budget for the road system it was between \$55 million and \$60 million. This year it will be \$118 million, in three years.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Final supplementary.

Mr. Harris: I do not know whether there is anything left in the briefing book, but we will see.

I would like to point out to the minister that \$124 extra is what it will cost a driver in the north who drives a car using leaded fuel, \$31 if it is unleaded. The \$17-million figure the minister gave out is for those motorists in the north and does not count tourists, trucking or boating. It does not count any of those things.

I want to say to the minister very specifically that, in my view, he has given a new meaning in this budget to regional development. It appears to us that with all the tax increases and how they impact on the north, with the \$5-million cut in commitment to the heritage fund, with the \$30.4 million per year in softwood lumber taxes not being returned, he is now taking with this budget more money from the north to support—I do not know—the south, I guess.

I think it gives a new meaning to regional development and I ask the Minister of Northern Development this: in view of the fact that by any objective opinion that is what this budget does, will the minister join with his fellow northern members and lead the fight against this budget that takes money from the north?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I want to remind the member for Nipissing that he always forgets about other funds. In the north, the Northern Ontario Development Corp. is still running, which this year will lend to northern entrepreneurs close to \$50 million. He forgets about the rest of the development funds: the northern Ontario tourist information centres enhancement program, the tourism redevelopment incentive program, the waterfront program and the municipal economic development agency program. I could go on and on. These are all new programs.

He forgets about the Ontario mineral exploration program which, when we took over, was about \$5 million. Today—

Mr. Harris: Those are all our old programs. Were you planning to take them away?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: That is fine. The money is still there, double the money. There is close to \$20 million for OMEP this year, to help the small mining companies to survive.

The member forgets about the roads. When we took over, there was \$55 million; today it is \$118 million, but he forgets that too. He forgets that they were building only one little airport in the north. Now we are close to three airports a year for the small communities where there are no roads. He forgets about the new schools and he forgets about the health system in the north, too. He always forgets that.

I want to remind him that in the last two years the money has been well returned to northern Ontario because we are caring for the northern people, instead of waiting—

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question.

RETAIL SALES TAX

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Treasurer, whose party, as I recall, allowed the bells to ring for four days back in 1982 when the Tories broadened the retail sales tax base. This year, the Treasurer has increased from seven to eight per cent the retail sales tax on that broadened tax base, I might add.

Why did the Treasurer increase the retail sales tax credit for everyone else except seniors and, given the fact that seniors are the poorest group in our society, why did he not double the sales tax credit for seniors in this budget?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We examined the program that is available for seniors at the present time, beginning with the payouts that assist seniors to the extent of \$600 each in paying the tax on—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It was \$500 for 10 years.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: No, \$600 for each year to pay their land taxes and their local property taxes. We have a wide array of programs involving free Ontario health insurance plan coverage and free drugs. We have a payment to assist in their sales tax, which stays the same as it was—the honourable member is correct in that—and we feel that the array of programs is adequate and appropriate.

Mr. Laughren: I am sure the Treasurer does feel that they are appropriate. The Treasurer should know as well that since those programs were put in for seniors, they have been devalued by about 40 per cent simply by the cost of inflation.

Given the fact that the Treasurer's new retail sales tax is going to bring in close to \$1 billion in a fiscal year, could the Treasurer tell us in plain

and simple terms, since the value of those credits for seniors has been depreciated over the years and since there are enormous new revenues in this budget, why he singled out the seniors and discriminated against them in a way that he has not for people under the age of 65?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The question is the same as the first and my answer is somewhat similar to my answer to the original question, which is that we have assessed the value of the programs available for seniors, which are very rich by any kind of account, and we think they are adequate and appropriate. We feel the commitment made by the government from the budget for the support of senior citizens in the province is a good one. We are very proud of it and feel it is sufficient at this time.

Mr. Harris: I have a question to the Premier. The Liberals were full of advice and beating on their chests about what they would do in 1982 if they had been the government. Back then, they wanted an exemption on sales tax on items purchased by municipalities, boards and agencies for public purposes.

In fact, I have a letter here to mayors, reeves and school board chairmen of Ontario municipalities signed by David Peterson, which said, "My colleagues and I are deeply concerned about the implications of this budget, with the further shift to the property tax base and the impact it will have on the cost to municipalities and school boards across the province."

Back then, the Premier wanted an exemption on sales taxes to municipalities and school boards and agencies like hospitals. Can he tell us what has changed since the Premier's letter of 1982?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer can answer the honourable member.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I remember the letter well. It was in the days when the support for school boards from the government of the day was totally inadequate. It was almost unbelievable that under those circumstances the then Treasurer, Frank Miller, would impose sales tax on the materials purchased for educational purposes.

We have felt that it is much better to go forward with an appropriate funding of the school system. The school boards are able to meet their commitment. We should remember that since that time salaries have assumed a much larger proportion of the cost of education and that while we are always prepared in the future to review the position of sales tax, particularly since the government of Canada has indicated that it is going to go very strongly and firmly into sales tax

at that level, there will be plenty of opportunity to review it in the future.

Mr. Harris: I know the Treasurer would not want the House to be left with anything other than the absolute facts. Back in 1982, as he talked about, education funding from the province was well over 50 per cent. Now it is down around 41 per cent. So the Treasurer's argument about the impact surely must mean that it is a much bigger hardship today than it was back in 1982.

1430

Back in 1982, the honourable member was very concerned about sales tax. In fact, he wanted an exemption of sales tax on labour for repairs and maintenance of personal property. He is a member of the government now and has been for three years. This is his fourth budget. He has come in with a sales tax hike. Is he no longer concerned about an exemption of sales tax on labour for repairs and maintenance of personal property?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We have made substantial changes in the base broadening that the Conservative Party was responsible for back in 1981-82. I have already indicated that it was the largest single tax grab in the history of the province, amounting really to 50 per cent more, on the basis of its share of gross provincial product, than the rather restrained approach taken by the budget last week.

Interjections.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, comparatively constrained.

I simply refer the honourable member to a statement made on June 1, 1982, by his present leader, who was in those days a rather junior member of the government caucus, when he said: "What we must face is the reality. What we are prepared to face on this side, in support of the increased sales tax, is the reality," whatever that meant.

Mr. Brandt: Is that the best quote you can come up with?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

PREPAID SERVICES

Mr. Matrundola: My question is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The minister is aware that more than 40 fitness clubs have closed down in Ontario in the last four years, affecting thousands of people, the most recent one being the Sheppard Club. According to a major daily newspaper last week, the Sheppard Club left over 2,000 prepaid

members angry, confused and demanding refunds. No reason appears to have been given as to why it closed, and the club appears to have no financial problems.

As this club is in the heart of my riding, I would like to ask the minister if he is investigating why this club suddenly closed and if there is anything the ministry can do to assist the members of the Sheppard Club, many of whom may have lost considerable sums of money.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I thank the member for Willowdale for that question. I know a number of those who were victimized by the closing of this club have been in touch with him and with his office. I can tell the honourable member that the investigation into the closing of the club is still under way. It appears that the closing has more to do with the failure of the club ownership to negotiate a new lease on the site, but we continue to look into that.

We will endeavour to mediate where appropriate, to attempt to get refunds for the 500 or so members of that club who are active; but I can say to the honourable member that unlike many of the other closings in the past, there do not appear to be large sums of money in that the longest lease was one year and some were working on a month-to-month basis.

Mr. Matrundola: Can the minister advise the House as to when we can expect Bill 26, An Act to regulate Prepaid Services, to be in place to protect the members of other such clubs who may be in a parallel situation?

Would the minister support an amendment to this legislation: (a) requiring these clubs to file annual financial statements with the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations in order to identify potential problem areas; and (b) that those members whose membership expired more than six months after the expiry date of the lease be so advised in order that a member or prospective member will be aware of the potential sudden termination of his membership?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I can say to the honourable member that the government House leader is certainly aware of the fact that we are prepared to proceed. I am certainly prepared to proceed at any time. The bill is before the House now. At the appropriate time in our very heavy legislative agenda, I hope we can get on with the passage of the Prepaid Services Act, 1987.

In response to the member's question on a financial statement, I can tell him that in this very, very loose industry with many, many members, we took a look at that, and I am not sure we would not be creating a bit of a regulatory

nightmare. This is why the legislation that now is before the House attempts to limit the liability of any member to a certain number of maximums. Members of these clubs are advised not to sink too many dollars into them. It may be very difficult to follow the procedure the honourable member desires.

COLLEGES OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Colleges and Universities who fared so badly with the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in this budget. I wonder if I can remind the minister of the fact that on March 23 she received a report from the six presidents of community colleges in the western region of the province, who were worried about their deficits and suggested that perhaps as many as 18 of our 22 community colleges may be in a deficit situation this year because of inadequate funding from this government.

Can the minister tell me, in answer to these three associated points, what is the total projected deficit that she knows of, how many jobs are in jeopardy and how many programs may be cut?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: It would be impossible to provide the specific answers to the questions the member has asked because of the very nature of college governance and management and the fact that the board of governors of each of the colleges is dealing with its particular operating situation. Some of those colleges are facing some difficulties this year.

I can certainly address the fact that there are colleges which are experiencing some problems. There are problems related to the fact that certain colleges are experiencing declines in enrolments and have been over some years. There is also pressure created for the colleges because of the fact that federal program support for skills training programs has changed dramatically. A specific statistic I can give the member this afternoon is the 4.5 decrease in federal support for the colleges. Their guaranteed support is more like 20 per cent down.

The fact is that those colleges that are facing difficult situations are looking at ways in which their budgets can be adjusted and at ways in which their programs may have to be adjusted to reflect changing needs.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister is also aware that it is pretty hard to match salary projections when her ministry passed along only a two per cent increase last year for those colleges to meet their salary needs.

Can she tell me just how many colleges are in the same position as Niagara College, which is now listing cutting programs in September for survey technician, mechanical engineering and drafting design, bilingual secretary, theatre arts, dental hygiene, library technician, labour studies in college and vocational programs; especially when she, in her response to a question on accessibility, suggested that perhaps the colleges are the place for kids to go? How can they go there when there are no programs?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I would like to remind the honourable member opposite that we have increased operating support for colleges in the past three years by some 35.6 per cent. I do not think that reflects a lack of commitment to the college system.

I would also like to stress the fact that there is a very different factor operating from college to college across the province. While some of the colleges are experiencing declines in enrolment, there are other colleges that are experiencing increases. One of the ways in which we attempt to provide differential support is through a funding formula that provides a college with two years to recognize whether a decline is an ongoing pattern or whether there can be an increase in enrolment, before the funding formula begins to shift.

We are working very carefully with Niagara College, which the member has mentioned, because of the specific problems it is identifying. We are also undertaking, on a longer term, a review of the weighting factors that it may be necessary to change in order to protect certain programs.

The honourable member was quite right when he indicated that I am concerned about the viability of a total spectrum of post-secondary education. It is in that context that the Council of Regents is reviewing the role of colleges and making recommendations to us.

1440

SUPPORT AND CUSTODY ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Attorney General. It concerns the support and custody enforcement branch within his ministry. There are several gentlemen in the gallery today who have received threatening warnings from this branch for being in arrears of child support payments. In fact, some have had their wages garnisheed by 50 per cent; that is, 50 per cent of their wages or salary has been subtracted from their take-home pay. The fact is that they were not in arrears and have proof of this, proof which

the minister's officials refuse to believe. What action is the Attorney General taking to redress these actions by his officials?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Of course, these issues come before the court in enforcement matters, but if my honourable friend is concerned and would be good enough to give me the names, I would be glad to look into it and see that no injustice is done.

The honourable member will want to remember that the orders we are talking about enforcing are orders made by a judge after a full hearing in which both sides have been heard. When we came into office, it was a shocking fact that these orders, which in 90 per cent of the cases involve minor children, were unpaid to the extent of 80 per cent across the province. We elected to see what we could do to remedy that situation.

The honourable member will be interested to know that, in the 10 months of operation of the program, 25,000 people, 90 per cent of whom have minor children, have voluntarily registered under the program. We want to do no injustice to anybody who is wronged, but I am proud to say that in those 10 months over \$25 million has been collected.

Mr. Cousens: It is not a good scene now because the branch is assuming guilt when it goes after payment from those they are told are behind in their payments. Provincial judges have gone on record as being very concerned with the actions of the Attorney General's ministry, with the extreme measures it is taking to follow up for money from those who are already paid up.

On the one hand, while these men have faced major problems with his ministry, at the same time they are being denied access to their children; and to be denied access to their children is exceedingly unfair and frustrating. What is the Attorney General doing to right this situation and to enforce the access provisions that these men are legally entitled to?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I do not know the individual cases the honourable member refers to. If he would like to give me the names, I will be glad to see what I can do. I do want to emphasize one thing that I think most members of the House agree with me on, and that is that it was critically important in this province to break the connection between access and maintenance and support. That has now been done. As I say, we are not enforcing the will of some creditor; we are enforcing, for the most part, a court order, made after full hearing, which has not been paid.

The judges, the honourable member will want to know, are not critical of that. What they are

critical of, interestingly enough, is the refusal of the program to modify or reduce the entitlement and thereby avoid the necessity of going to court. I do not hesitate to say that my instructions to our staff are that these court orders, in so far as the law allows, are going to be enforced, because 90 per cent of them involve young children. I do not hesitate to say that this is an important program that I think all members of the House should support.

WINE INDUSTRY

Mr. Dietsch: My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The minister will be aware that there is a committee headed up by his ministry to negotiate a transition program for the grape industry in Ontario. My understanding is that that committee has not finalized its report. However, the federal member, Rob Nicholson, explained to a number of grape growers in my riding that there was a federal commitment to this transition program already in place. Can the minister please clarify that position?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: In the midst of ongoing negotiations by this committee, composed of a federal member from Agriculture Canada, a provincial member of my ministry, representatives of the grape growers and also the the Wine Council of Ontario, this Conservative federal member decided to release a report that did not seem to have any origin. I say that, for I made a call to the federal Minister of Agriculture, John Wise, asking about this report, and John stated quite emphatically that the report did not emanate from his office.

I must also say that the officials of the Department of Agriculture are more than annoyed at this federal member's releasing information when he really did not have factual information to release.

Mr. Dietsch: After reading in the Toronto Star this morning what the federal government has done to British Columbia growers and to some of the growers in Ontario, can the minister indicate to me if there has been any federal commitment or if there will be a federal commitment to this transition program?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: All I can say is that there has been no policy submitted to the federal cabinet. As a matter of fact, according to the record of the House of Commons debate, this question was asked in the House on April 21 by Mr. Riis: "Since the Prime Minister identified that there would be compensation packages for those who are hurt by the deal"—and I trust he meant the free trade deal—"will the Prime

Minister explain just what the compensation package will be and when the actual details will be made known?"

The Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable John Wise, responded to the question. After commenting on this one family that was being driven out of business in British Columbia, he ended his comments by saying, "We should be in a position very shortly to make some recommendations to the government."

It is obvious that decisions are being made in Ottawa based on a pending election. I sincerely hope the Prime Minister does not play politics with the grape growers of this province.

SENIOR CITIZENS' TAX GRANTS

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Treasurer. As he knows, we have over a million seniors in this province, many of whom live below the poverty line and have great difficulty in making ends meet.

In his billion-dollar, post-election tax grab last Wednesday, why did the Treasurer let the corporations off with no tax increase and give them all sorts of grants and concessions when, at the same time, he hit all seniors with a 15 per cent increase in sales tax—and only a token increase in the sales tax rebate—and did not substantially step up funding for services to help seniors stay in their own homes and out of costly institutional care? Why did he do that in his budget?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member, with her professional background in finance, particularly at the government level, should be able to observe the program that a variety of ministries offers to seniors in a more comprehensive way. She would know that last year the budget increased seniors' grants for property taxes to \$600 from \$500, and they have a wide variety of assistance involving free OHIP and free drugs, as well as access to the programs that are available to most other citizens in this regard.

It is true the sales tax credit for seniors was left at \$50, because we felt, on balance, looking at the value of expanded programs that the last few budgets brought forward, that it was fair and equitable so to do.

Ms. Bryden: The Treasurer has confirmed that there is no increase in the sales tax rebate for seniors. That was not clear from the budget. It said \$100 for every man and woman and \$50 for every child, subject, of course, to very strict income tests.

1450

The Treasurer mentioned the property tax credit, which is a special credit for seniors and is

supposed to help relieve them from the burden of property taxes and school board taxes due to inflation and the shifting of more provincial responsibilities to local governments. Property taxes are going up every year. Why did the Treasurer not include in his budgetary largess an indexing of the property tax grant to seniors, so that as taxes rise at the municipal level, the seniors will not be forced out of their homes and into expensive institutional care?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Last year we improved the property tax grant by 20 per cent. We felt that would be a useful improvement for a period of time. We also have a program, one of the better ones that we inherited from the previous administration, for senior citizens' housing, which up until recently was substantially funded by the federal government and is now largely funded provincially. As well, in most communities senior citizen facilities—small apartments which are designed to keep them in independent living with, in some instances, specific assistance—has been well accepted and well received.

Most people who look at the programs available federally, provincially and municipally for senior citizens feel that, compared with most other jurisdictions, we are fair and equitable in our responses to their requirements.

ONTARIO SHARE AND DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP.

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. It is a question that was asked last week and still is unanswered. For the minister's benefit, I will repeat it. Can the minister explain why he and the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître) have rejected the suggestions of the Ontario caisses populaires regarding the Ontario Share and Deposit Insurance Corp.?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I want to turn up some details, but I will be able to provide them in a letter to the honourable member. Members may recall that when the question was asked last week I was critical, perhaps needlessly critical; it was asked with five seconds remaining in the question period. I fully expected the question to be asked the next day, but it was not.

In response to the question by the honourable member, I can tell him that the Ontario Share and Deposit Insurance Corp. acts independently in dealing with credit unions and caisse populaires and that, in the instance of Caisse populaire Windsor, after the independent assessment of the circumstances, it was seen by the officials at OSDIC that it should not be further supported but

in fact it should be wound down; that this began two weeks ago; that every deposit is fully insured; that there will be no further deposits taken but it will be open for business for as much as 12 months; and that they are assisting it in every way they possibly can to get the services of other credit unions and caisse populaires or banking institutions nearby.

Mr. Villeneuve: There are still many, many unanswered questions revolving around this particular issue. In view of the answer the Treasurer has just given, would he not agree now to appoint an independent audit to see exactly what happened in the case of the caisse populaire in Windsor?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member, having followed it rather closely, will know that the Ontario Share and Deposit Insurance Corp. moved in to assist Caisse populaire Windsor as far back as 1982 with \$3 million; still the caisse populaire showed its support in the community and its administration to continue to have some problems, and I believe at the most recent audit last August it had gone into arrears by about \$1.5 million. It was on that basis that the decision was made by OSDIC to wind it down.

I say again that no deposits are at risk and that, in that instance, all individuals will be safeguarded.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Solicitor General. For many months, the opposition has been trying to show that this government is taking a province that is closed on Sundays and trying to give the responsibility of opening on Sundays to the local municipalities, and yet across the whole of Ontario we have many examples of municipalities that are already open; some have been open for many years. I can only assume from what the opposition is saying that we are trying to take a situation where the municipalities are open illegally—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Owen: My question to the minister is, if we are trying to throw this responsibility on to the municipalities, if they already open legally, how on earth did these municipalities ever get opened up in the first place? Who was responsible for doing this to us in the first place?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I would have to point out that, indeed, the local municipalities do already have an option to open their municipalities to a large degree or a small degree, as they wish, but

they have to do it in a rather back-door way, which they do by proclaiming themselves or some part of the municipality to be a tourist exemption.

I believe there is one municipality in the member's own area, Innisfil, which has declared itself a tourist exemption. This is obviously an abuse of the intention of the law as it was, and we are trying now to make it a fair, more meaningful approach so that municipalities can indeed use the option they now have in a fairer and more open way and decide either to open or to close as they see fit for their proper municipality.

Mr. Owen: Again, the opposition has been trying to portray this government as—

Mr. Harris: Incompetent nincompoops.

Mr. Owen: They are giving the perception that this government is trying to force everyone to be open.

Mr. Harris: He was stumped for a word. I was trying to help him.

Mr. Owen: I would like to ask the minister, is this government going to leave these municipalities which have already opened under legislation introduced by a previous government, or are we going to say to these municipalities under the proposed package, "You still have to readdress what you have done in the past"? Are we showing from what we are proposing—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have heard a question or two in there.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Yes, indeed. Within five years from when the bill is passed, municipalities will have to address the problem of whether they have allowed abuses to come in and may indeed end up closing rather than opening stores where these abuses have occurred. Furthermore, we have attempted to make the law much more enforceable. Municipalities will be able to collect much increased fines, and in fact if their own bylaws are broken they will be able to keep those fines. The law will permit stores to be closed down when they break the law, which is not presently permitted, and roping off and other such abuses will be done away with.

HOME CARE

Mr. Allen: I have a question to the Minister of Community and Social Services with regard to the homemaker program. I note that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) stated in a release in September 1987: "This year we have committed ourselves to introducing the program to 28 centres that serve communities and their surrounding areas; 18 of these are already operational." The minister will

know that at this point in time there are only 18 such centres being served. Already the government has broken its own promise of September 1987. At the same time, I have a memorandum that went out not long back to co-ordinators in the integrated homemaker program from Gerald Duda, assistant deputy minister, community services division, in which he refers to "prematurely capping this new program before it has become well established and mature."

Will the minister tell us that in fact a promise has been broken, but also, secondly, whether he will not endeavour in some fashion to meet that promise in this coming year? Will he be adding new centres to this program despite the fact that the system has been capped?

1500

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I believe that if the honourable member examines the whole statement, he will notice that the Premier indicated that the 38 centres would be completed by 1990, I believe the date was. He also will be aware of the fact that because a number of the 18 centres presently operating in fact ran short of money before their last fiscal year was out, they individually capped the program. We turned around very quickly after that, flowed extra money to them and told them to uncap it from that point.

I am not able to tell the honourable member how quickly we will be able to move into new programs, but my understanding is that the commitment of the Premier of 1990 for the entire program is still there.

Mr. Allen: It is interesting that we got only less than two thirds of the way to the initial program commitment for this year. We will have to take the minister's word for it as to what the longer-term objective will be and we will have to measure him against that. But he knows that the health care system, and the seniors care system in general, is bottled up at the point where it meets the emerging home care system. There are something like 382 people in some eight hospitals that we surveyed recently who are needing chronic care and extended care beds. A recent report from the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) tells us that half the people in nursing homes and homes for the aged should not be there. There is a backup, which obviously leads us to the home care system and the homemaker system.

Mr. Speaker: Would you have a question?

Mr. Allen: We know that is not even serving the people in the community who are demanding it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Have you a question?

Mr. Allen: How can the minister and his assistants be requesting, and I quote, "that you instruct your staff to flat-line admissions and case load, limiting new clients to those who urgently require service in order to avoid imminent institutionalization," when the need is so apparent across the whole system for these services?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member will recall that the priority reason for introducing the integrated homemaker program was in fact to prevent or at least to delay the movement of seniors and disabled people in the communities into an institutional setting. That was the first purpose of it. There were others, but that was the first one. Therefore, it does not seem unreasonable that we would advise the various municipalities that have the program that if they are having funding problems, surely their first clients would be those who have a most imminent possibility of moving into an institutional setting.

I do not apologize for that. That is not enough, but certainly if the total money flowing to them is not enough to meet everybody's needs—and it is not—then surely that is the priority group to deal with. It makes sense to me.

PETITIONS

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. Adams: I have a petition from health care workers and others who are concerned about an open forum to be held by the College of Nurses of Ontario in Peterborough on Wednesday. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We strongly disagree with the college of nurses' proposed standards and levels of nursing practice. The college has been conducting information sessions around the province the past several months and will be in Peterborough on April 27. Many questions and concerns have not been addressed following these sessions.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the college of nurses to cease and desist in promulgating such divisive acts."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Swart: I have just one short petition on Sunday shopping, which comes from a group that we have never heard from, I think, in this House to date. It is a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and Premier Peterson:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government of Ontario to stop Sunday shopping now.

"Our hearts hurt a lot to think you people forgot about us children, who will suffer if our mommies and daddies work on Sundays. We are very proud of our mommies and daddies working in the stores, even though they sometimes work till 9 p.m. and we are in bed.

"How many of you people have children they like spending time with? Don't we as children have any rights? Us children have lots of responsibilities. What about times with our mommies and daddies? Sundays are days that me and my family spend time together, biking, playing catch and tickle time. If you say yes, that is just taking away all our fun.

"We beg of you to stop and listen to the children crying. Stop and remember us children before you say yes to Sunday shopping, so none of us will be hurt."

They have done some real artwork here, showing the children crying. This is signed by eight children in the Welland area.

Mr. Speaker: Have you added your own signature?

Mr. Swart: I might add it now.

SUTTON DAM

Mr. Ballinger: The folks in the town of Georgina in my riding are sick and tired of the petitions on Sunday shopping. I have one here on another topic.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned, petition David Peterson, Premier of the province of Ontario, to intercede with the Ministry of Natural Resources to allow the Sutton dam to be replaced."

There are 1,287 names.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Harris: I have six petitions on Sunday shopping, similar to the ones I have tabled before on behalf of a number of residents of Nipissing. One has about 50 or 60 names; one has about 25; one has about 100 or so; another one has about 25; one has another 52; and one has approximately 30. They all petition the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's plan to change retail store hours," etc. Some of them are a little different, but really they are all the same.

To save the time of this House, I would like to table those, all on the issue of Sunday shopping.

Mr. Philip: "To the Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Father O'Malley has expressed grave disappointment with the actions of young Sean Conway, a former altar boy, in voting for Sunday shopping;

"Whereas we share this disappointment, we urge the government not to pursue in its action and we urge Mr. Conway to confess his transgressions."

I have signed the petition, along with others.

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, which reads in part:

"It is very seldom that I write letters to elected representatives, but at this time I feel I am compelled to let you know how disappointed I am in the Liberal government and their approach to dumping the controversial seven-day retail issues on to the municipalities. When one travels to the United States as much as I do, I see the effect an open Sunday has on society. It makes you proud to come home and to be a Canadian. Now that I have voiced my concern, I hope that the provincial government will act responsibly and makes a decision in favour of no seven-day retailing."

It is signed by R. Merle Zorbe, 1505 Glenburnie Road, Mississauga, L5G 3C9. I am happy to lend my support to this viewpoint.

Mr. Speaker: It sounded like a letter. Was that an original petition?

Mrs. Marland: Yes.

Mr. McLean: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I was just curious if the Legislature will be adjourning according to the clock on the end.

Mr. Speaker: There is a little trouble with the clock. I think we will go by the clock on the side of the chamber.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Fleet from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr5, An Act respecting The Chartered Institute of Marketing Management of Ontario;

Bill Pr27, An Act respecting the Ontario Municipal Management Institute;

Bill Pr29, An Act respecting The United Church of Canada and The Canada Conference The Evangelical United Brethren Church;

Bill Pr37, An Act respecting the University of Western Ontario;

Bill Pr67, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton.

Your committee further recommends that Bill Pr7, An Act respecting the Driving School Association of Ontario, be not reported.

Motion agreed to.

1510

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Sorbara moved first reading of Bill 114, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

1530

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Sorbara's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Bradley, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cordiano, Curling, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Furlong, Grandmaître, Haggerty, Hart, Henderson, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kwinter, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett, Lupusella;

MacDonald, Mahoney, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, McLeod, Miclash, Miller, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, R. F., Offer, O'Neil, H., O'Neill, Y., Oddie Munro, Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, G., Poirier, Poole, Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Ruprecht, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wilson.

Nays

Allen, Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Harris, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, McCague, Philip, E., Pollock, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Sterling, Swart, Villeneuve.

Ayes 76; nays 25.

TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT CONSTRUCTION ACT

Hon. Mr. Sorbara moved first reading of Bill 115, An Act to provide for Construction Work in Connection with the Toronto Economic Summit.

Motion agreed to.

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND ACT

LOI SUR LE FONDS PATRIMONIAL DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO

Hon. Mr. Fontaine moved first reading of Bill 116, An Act respecting the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund.

L'hon. M. Fontaine propose la première lecture du projet de loi 116, Loi concernant le Fonds patrimonial du Nord de l'Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

ONTARIO LOAN ACT

Hon. R. F. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 117, An Act to authorize the raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed will say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. R. F. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 118, An Act to amend the Financial Administration Act.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. R. F. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 119, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act.

1602

The House divided on Hon. Mr. R. F. Nixon's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Bradley, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cordiano, Curling, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Furlong, Grandmaître, Haggerty, Hart, Henderson, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kwinter, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett, Lupusella;

MacDonald, Mahoney, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, McLeod, Miclash, Miller, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, R. F., Offer, O'Neil, H., Oddie Munro, Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, G., Poole, Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Wilson.

Nays

Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, McCague, McLean, Philip, E., Pollock, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Sterling, Swart, Villeneuve.

Ayes 72; nays 27.

TOBACCO TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 120, An Act to amend the Tobacco Tax Act.

Motion agreed to.

GASOLINE TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 121, An Act to amend the Gasoline Tax Act.

1609

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Grandmaître's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Bradley, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cordiano, Curling, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Furlong, Grandmaître, Haggerty, Hart, Henderson, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kwinter, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett, Lupusella;

MacDonald, Mahoney, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, McLeod, Miclash, Miller, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, R. F., Oddie Munro, Offer, O'Neil H., Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, G., Poirier, Poole, Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W.,

Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Wilson.

Nays

Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Eves, Farnan, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, McCague, McLean, Philip, E., Pollock, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Sterling, Swart, Villeneuve.

Ayes 73; nays 26.

RETAIL SALES TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 122, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act.

1656

The House divided on Mr. Grandmaître's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Bossy, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cordiano, Curling, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Furlong, Grandmaître, Haggerty, Hart, Henderson, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kwinter, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett, Lupusella;

MacDonald, Mahoney, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, McLeod, Miclash, Miller, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, R. F., Offer, O'Neil, H., Oddie Munro, Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, G., Poole, Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Ruprecht, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Wilson.

Nays

Allen, Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, McCague, McLean, Philip, E., Pollock, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Runciman, Swart, Villeneuve.

Ayes 71; nays 27.

INFORMED CHOICE BY PATIENTS ACT

Mr. Dietsch moved first reading of Bill 123, An Act for Informed Choice by Patients.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Dietsch: The bill establishes several administrative procedures governing the performance of abortions in Ontario. The bill requires

that a patient be provided with information concerning the life condition of an unborn child, the risk that may result from the abortion and the social services available to care for the child before consenting to the abortion operation. The bill also provides that no physician or nurse shall be dismissed or disciplined for the refusal to participate in an abortion because of objections based on moral or ethical grounds.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET RESOLUTION

Hon. R. F. Nixon moved, seconded by **Hon. Mr. Conway**, that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

BUDGET DEBATE

Hon. R. F. Nixon: This would be an appropriate time for some of the honourable members to undertake other business without offending me in any way.

I had thought at one stage of reading the budgetary address and then, out of mercy for all my friends and colleagues in the House, I decided that perhaps I would leave it as deemed, a public document, and perhaps make a few informal comments about the advantages of support for the motion, which we think is going to be an extremely valuable one indeed.

Mr. Laughren: Why is the cabinet leaving?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Because they have very good judgement.

Mr. Laughren: Why is Sterling leaving?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Does the official opposition not have anything else to do at all? All right. Actually, I am delighted they are staying because I feel the debate can be quite constructive and useful, much more constructive and useful than the tactic the official opposition has used until the present time. It seems to me that democrats, old or new—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It happened in 1982.

Mr. Laughren: His neck is getting red.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have to remind some of the members of standing order 24(b). I think you have heard that before. If a member is speaking, no other member shall interrupt, except on a point of order.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: But Mr. Speaker, you should remind them of what they did in 1982.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I feel that when one party interrupts and obstructs the business of the House, it is tantamount to a hijacking of democracy. I think we are aware that no party is without fault in this connection, but that does not mean we can base the future on past mistakes. Now that the New Democratic Party has joined all of the unwashed partisans who have experimented with undemocratic procedures in the past, we can all join together as thinking citizens and members of this Legislature and undertake some sort of reasonable approach to the conduct of public business.

We are here as a government to propose, and the members of the Legislature to dispose as they see fit. It is up to us in serving the crown to put forward a program both of legislation and for taxing and expenditure, and all honourable members then have an opportunity to support it with their views or criticize it as they choose, and finally to vote for or against the program of the government.

There is nothing the matter with that process and I heartily recommend it to the honourable members. The arbitrary use of arcane aspects of our rules to hold up the public business of this House should certainly be stopped. As soon as the honourable members on all sides can reach some sort of suitable agreement, then I would suggest it come forward.

I want to commend the third party for its sensible approach to this situation.

Mr. Brandt: Stop, Stop, Bob.

Mr. Jackson: You're on TV. Stop right there. Interjections.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, I think it is quite appropriate that the House leader for the New Democratic Party is retreating in embarrassment since it appears that he and the overpaid minions of democratic socialism who worked up this particular plot should suffer some embarrassment at the hands of the public.

I just want to recall an occasion some years ago when the Liberals as official opposition did something similar. In those days, the NDP had third-party status. It is quite easy to be holier than the rest of the members of the Legislature when you are at the bottom. That was the position of the NDP was in those days. I remember their righteous speeches about any party that would ever ring the bells and therefore impede the proper unfolding of the business of the House.

I guess my point returns to the original one: None of us is pure in this, but I think that perhaps

it would be wise, now that we have put all those puerile and banal alternatives behind us, that we could then approach the solution to an improvement in the rules of the House that would benefit all sides. I believe that most earnestly and I hope the honourable members would give it that consideration.

There are three things about the budget that I would like to deal with in particular during my brief remarks. The purpose of the budget was threefold. The first purpose was to prepare the province for the future in the increased competitiveness that has been brought to public attention by the Premier's Council on technology.

The honourable members who have read the statement as carefully as I know they would, realize that the budget includes at least three specific initiatives recommended by the Premier's Council. He has gathered in that council representatives of the academic community who are capable, independent and outstanding in their abilities; a number of individuals representing the business community who, once again are quite independent and put forward rather strong views as to what the business community and the economy of the province would benefit from particularly; and a selection of cabinet ministers whose policies would affect the matter particularly and directly.

They have indicated a certain weakness in the economy of Ontario based on our lack of productivity. We have been extremely fortunate during the past few years that there have been offsetting circumstances that have masked our rather unproductive manufacturing basis. The fact that the Canadian dollar until the last few weeks has been very cheap vis-à-vis the American dollar has meant that our competitive stance has been advantageous in the extreme. The world price of petroleum, which took a dramatic fall two and a half years ago has also been advantageous for our industry. As a matter of fact, in the \$6-billion bill for petroleum resources utilized in Ontario, almost \$2 billion was saved by the reduction in oil prices and almost all of that went into the capital expansion of our manufacturing and business capability.

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These two features came together with growth in the world economy to allow the economy of this particular jurisdiction to grow as fast as or faster than any of the noncentrally planned economies. We have been particularly advantageous because the costs of manufacturing have been extremely low here.

Although our workforce has been well qualified and productive as individuals, still the investment in the manufacturing community has left a good deal to be desired. Compared with most other countries and many industries in those countries, our advantage, based on the low Canadian dollar and low energy prices, has outweighed this lack of productivity that the Premier's Council has brought to our attention.

In order to at least begin the compensation for that, the budget brings forward a new program in support of research and development which is funded in the first year to the extent of \$45 million. This may or may not be adequate, but at least it is a substantial impetus to the improvement of research in Ontario and the utilization of the research in the industries concerned.

We have also put considerably more resources into skills development and training and at the university and college level, so that the research that is going on in this jurisdiction and in other jurisdictions can be passed on in a practical way to young people who are just now completing their education. Only by having a large number of these people adequately educated can we really pass on the information and improve the productivity and competitiveness of our industry.

In order to strengthen that, we have a new program which assists industry, particularly small industry and emerging industry, to hire these technicians coming out of our colleges and universities. The cost of the program is large but, we think, reasonably balanced with the need to see that the economy in general has access to this emerging technology.

In addition, we have a program to assist in the development of new technology in Ontario that can be used in the public sector. The province alone commits many of its resources, a good number of dollars of its resources, to the purchase of specialized computer hardware and software, communications technology, all of which costs a lot of money. While these are purchased on open and competitive bids in the time-honoured tradition, still we feel that some local industries and research capabilities could be strengthened to make them more competitive in that regard.

We feel that one of the most important thrusts of this budget is to spend money to improve our competitive stance. Members are aware that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has taken a very effective lead in this, not only as chairman of the council but also in moving around the Pacific Rim and in

Europe, stimulating the ability of the province to compete in international markets.

We think this is important. While we support an improvement in trade with the United States, as long as it does not involve the present free trade deal, which we think is inadequate, we are also looking much more strongly towards improving trade with other nations in the world. We think that is our future, that we in Ontario are the traders in a trading nation and that the basis of our economy rests on our ability to compete both now and in the future.

The second thrust in the budget was to pay for the costs of improving the quality of our public structures and facilities associated with modern education and the provision of health services. Those are the two principal ones, and perhaps I should add a third as one of the important ones—certainly it is important—and that is the provision of housing.

The list becomes very long when you see the initiatives in the budget, including strong new measures to improve the environment, to provide support for the agricultural community and to develop the north, where we are spending very large additional sums of money in order to give northerners their place in the emerging economy of Ontario and Canada. This particular commitment, particularly in post-secondary education and in grades 1 and 2, is costly, and we are doing it not just over a one-year period but on a planned basis over four to five years.

For too long the universities and school boards have had to deal on a year-to-year basis with the budgetary decisions dictated from Queen's Park. We feel that, particularly for capital purposes, it is essential that school boards and the boards of trustees of universities and hospitals as well know what their capital commitment will be for three or four years in the future.

I look around for the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward), who is even now preparing an announcement in the near future for the capital that will be available to the communities in building new schools in this fiscal year and next. We think it is essential that the school boards and those with community responsibilities have a longer planning spectrum in order that they can consult with the community and perhaps even object to decisions taken at the centre if they feel they do not recognize the needs in their specific area.

These programs have been expanded substantially in the last three years. I have tried to indicate in the budget statement itself the rate of expansion based on a per cent growth going back

three years, and in many instances the per cent growth is very impressive indeed.

There are those, in fact, benighted enough to think these expenditures are perhaps higher than they might be. We are concerned about the efficiency of the expenditure of public dollars, of course, but we also feel that we could not continue at the rate of spending that we inherited.

As a matter of fact, in the case of post-secondary education, on a per capita basis the expenditure in Ontario was 10th out of 10 in Canada. While it is not fair for us to compare ourselves with Prince Edward Island or perhaps some other provinces where the situation is entirely different, still it is strange indeed that when we compare ourselves with British Columbia and Quebec, we are somehow still far behind in the application of public dollars for these essential community requirements.

I have been much struck by the view of the third party that somehow we in Ontario are still spending too much money. On a per capita basis in the totem-pole of provinces in Canada, we are number seven. I pointed that out in the budget, indicating that six provinces are ahead of us in per capita expenditure across the board. We have moved a little bit in that particular level of comparison, but not very much; in my view, not as much as we should and not as much as I hope we will in the future. It is not necessary for us to spend more than any other province, but I do feel that when the pressure is on us, as members of the Legislature, to properly and adequately provide for our schools and for our hospitals, our roads and our environmental programs, our farmers and northern development, we should be seen to be making appropriate allocations.

The second thrust, then, is to properly maintain the funding for quality education and good health care. Perhaps I should dwell on that for a moment. I was quite struck by an article by Orland French in this morning's *Globe and Mail* which read quite carefully the budgetary paper on health expenditure. That paper was not designed to draw any particular conclusions except those inherent in the figures that were provided. They show the rapid growth of health care in the cost and, actually, in the quality of what is provided.

With an ageing population—and I know all about that, since I am sort of on the leading edge—there is more and more requirement for things which 10 years ago were medical miracles. Today these are routine, and people my age and with my particular proclivities tend to accept a triple bypass as being as ordinary as we used to accept tonsillectomies, except that they are a lot

more costly, and that is the sort of thing that is adding to these costs.

The doctors themselves have accounted for a very large, substantial increase in the costs of the provision of medical care. Members are aware that last year there was a settlement with the doctors of just over four per cent. We provided for a seven per cent utilization increase factor, which meant that in last year's budget there was about 11 per cent for increased costs of the provision of medical services, doctors' services. In the event, these costs have actually increased by about 13 per cent.

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Members will notice, in the fourth quarter report that is part of the budget, that we have overexpended last June's budget by about \$180 million. If we were to criticize the doctors and say they should not be billing so much, their appropriate response would be that they bill for services from residents of Ontario who go to the doctors for the services that are available. These services are much more extensive and certainly more expensive.

The costs of the drugs involved are rising very rapidly. This is a matter of concern to the whole community, and certainly to members of this House, not the least the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan).

I think it was worth while putting those numbers forward in the same way that the costs of education, without drawing any particular conclusions, were placed also in the budget papers, an indication that now in education 80 per cent of the money made available is used for salaries. We have teachers who are among the highest paid in Canada, and certainly in this large jurisdiction that amounts to a good deal of money indeed.

Our pupil-teacher ratios vary depending upon the community. I was interested to see that not all our communities have as low pupil-teacher ratios as I expected, but if we combine high salaries, which is appropriate with well-trained and competent teachers who are effective in providing educational leadership, with a low pupil-teacher ratio, we certainly have a formula for very high education costs.

This is the sort of thing we are interested in here: being sure that the quality of the education this buys is satisfactory. I find that most parents are substantially satisfied, just as I find that most individuals are satisfied with our provision of Ontario health insurance plan services.

I was interested in reading this weekend an insert in the Wall Street Journal. I read that just

about as regularly as I used to read *Farm and Country*. The Wall Street Journal has lots of interesting ideas on developments, but one of the most interesting ones, which I commend to the honourable members, was an article on the provision of health services.

One article, which I might very well quote at length, but I will let members read it themselves if they are interested, pointed out the advantages that Canada has over the United States in the provision of those services. They said that, on the average, medical practitioners in the United States are paid about 30 per cent more than doctors in Canada. They are not talking about Ontario but about Canada in general.

They were also pointing out that in the United States about 11.2 per cent of the gross national product is applied to the provision of health services—hospitals and doctors—whereas in Canada, and certainly Ontario would be typical of Canadian jurisdictions, the commitment is about 8.2 per cent. It is one of the few statistics in the provision of health services that gives me some comfort.

That does not mean the efficiency in the provision of these services cannot be improved. I believe it can be, and I think the improvement can take place once we get a report from the Premier's Council on Health Strategy. Then I believe the members of the Legislature can give some consideration towards utilizing the \$11 billion, \$12 billion, \$13 billion that we have for health services in an even more effective way.

I am sure the honourable members are aware that the Premier's council has the co-operation and participation of a wide range of citizens of Ontario, including the past president of the Ontario Medical Association, Dr. Hugh Scully—

Mrs. Marland: Now a Liberal.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: —who is considered to be a very competent and capable person, as well as other representatives of the medical practitioners. There may even be a dentist. I trust and hope there is, I say to the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland).

Mr. B. Rae: Why, is she a dentist?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: No, but she eats Crunchie bars, and it is very bad. I do not know where that little diversion came from, but it happens every now and then. Her husband is a dentist.

Anyway, on the provision of these medical services, in winding up this rather brief segment of my address, I also point out that the Minister of Health has a group that is looking at the provision of drugs under our Ontario drug benefit program and across the board. I think it would be

appropriate that the members of the Legislature, when that report is available, give advice to the minister and the Treasurer so that we will feel free to take action to improve the efficiency even there.

Press reports and public reports in the last few months indicating the numbers of prescriptions written, particularly for our senior citizens, give some indication that there may be some overutilization that could be corrected for the benefit of all, including the concern the Treasurer feels in meeting the cost of a program that is growing at a very rapid rate indeed.

The last of my three points—and that does not mean I am about to finish my speech—is that I felt it was necessary in these prosperous times to bring our cash requirements down somewhat. The honourable members will be aware that there exists a certain confusion between the terms “net cash requirement” and “budgetary deficit.” In each of the budgets I have brought forward, I have included the number of budgetary deficit, which in my view is the most important and effective one.

The budgetary deficit is reduced in size because the audit function in the government of Ontario permits, and in fact requires, that we consider the payments made from the public service pension, which is internal to government, as a source of revenue. It also allows deposits made into the Province of Ontario Savings Office to be considered revenue, even though they obviously have to be paid back eventually, with interest. But since those are considered revenue, it means the cash requirement is lower because we have that money that we can use to finance our ongoing programs and do not have to borrow the additional money from external sources, such as the teachers’ superannuation fund.

That is the short explanation. If members want the long explanation, I have a number of officials who would be glad to tell them about this rather confusing—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exciting.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: —matter. I find it exciting, I really do.

Three years ago when we took office—and members have heard me talk about this—the net cash requirements on that day, looking into the future, were \$2.2 billion. The budgetary deficit was almost exactly \$1 billion more, \$3.2 billion.

I am sure members are aware—and many of them have had almost a compulsion to support us in this, but they have been able to fight it off fairly well—that we have been able to reduce the net cash requirements and the budgetary deficit

on a phased and planned basis. If you were to plot it on a piece of graph paper, you would find the downward slope to be significant. As long as the community and the economy remain buoyant, I hope to be able to continue that slope. It might even hit bottom some time, God willing.

I think the point is that we should start to think, at least, about net cash requirements and budgetary deficit as we discuss these things. I hope, as we go through the quarterly reports this year and on into next year, it will be possible for me to talk about budgetary deficit more than cash requirement.

As a matter of fact, the term “cash requirement” was brought into common utilization by our mutual friend Darcy McKeough. He did not bring it into use because it was a number lower than the budgetary deficit. As a matter of fact, it was reversed in those days, and it may very well reverse in the future. We have a report now that comes from the learned person who provided it—

Mr. Breagh: Memory loss, one of the first signs.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: That is right. I do not want anybody to cut back on those OHIP services.

The report indicated that we ought to be contemplating putting the resources that come from the teachers’ superannuation, public service superannuation and Canada pension plans into separate funds, partially outside the control of the Treasurer and the government in general, for investment in marketable securities.

Mr. Pouliot: Not too far away.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It would mean that we would not reach into that money automatically and use it to finance our ongoing governmental requirements. Most of the time, interestingly enough, it would be cheaper for me as Treasurer to borrow the money downtown or elsewhere in the world—but from my point of view, downtown—than to borrow it all from the teachers, the Canada pension plan and the public service. Under the law at present it is necessary for all of the contributions from the teachers to be taken in by the government of Ontario, and the interest is payable under a formula which is very advantageous to the teachers. During the last few months it has been at least one per cent more than the interest that would have been paid on the open market, so all the stuff about the teachers sort of paying the price of—

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Mr. D. S. Cooke: Get those teachers.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Get them? I am a teacher and may very well be again, if I get lucky.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There are new standards in the school system.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Yes; well, I may have a little trouble with that, although any sensible teacher my age has long since retired on a full pension, indexed. So my friends should think about that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Is there anything you can do with this mob, Mr. Speaker? I am about to lose the train of thought here, but it has to do with cash requirements and budgetary deficit.

It was my view—and this is the third thrust in the budget, which from my point of view, frankly, is and was number one. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) would not agree with me. He likes the recommendation of the Premier's Council as the main thrust of the budget, and I agree with him, of course, that it is extremely important. But as for me, I wanted to get the cash requirements down on the basis to which I had committed myself, and we are just about on track.

It would have been possible, frankly, for the cash requirements to get down near the zero point, but it would have required a certain amount of fudging and a little smoke and mirrors, which I certainly would not contemplate for a moment. The numbers that are before you are tough, they are ironclad and they are going to be followed as rigorously and strictly as possible.

Members understand that, in a \$38-billion budget, even a change of up to \$300 million is well within the ambit of rational error or, let us say, in projection. I should say that in order to cover what may happen 12 months from now, when I am justifying what has happened rather than explaining what is about to happen.

I have the greatest confidence in the officials of the Treasury, who in almost every respect are the same worthy people who advised the predecessor government. I have made my speeches about their capabilities, their academic backgrounds and experience, their disinterested approach to policy for the good of the province, which frankly—and I am not joking about this at all—I regard very highly. We could not possibly be more fortunate than we are in this regard, and I think all of us owe them a great vote of thanks, not just in the Treasury but right across the public service.

Mr. Villeneuve: What about the boys at Earl's Shell Service?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The boys at Earl's thought this was a marvellous budget, actually. Well, there were certain aspects—

Interjections.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, to tell you the truth, I had to throw my hat in the door Saturday morning before I went in to buy gas, but members will be interested to know that the prices in St. George that were listed for gasoline were 42.1, 42.1, 45.1.

Mr. Harris: It is 52 cents in North Bay.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: In some areas the competitive instinct is not as sensitive as it is in others.

I have already indicated to you that it was quite important that we reduce the cash requirements. I think the honourable members will know that we are the only triple-A credit-rated province in Canada. Moody's Investors Service, which is the largest and one of the most influential rating agencies in the world, has maintained that triple A. The Canadian Bond Rating Service also gives us triple A.

That leaves a couple of others. One of them, the Dominion Bond Rating Service, is about to derate us, according to what it has said. It is very concerned that we are spending too much money. I do not believe that myself. I believe we are fulfilling our responsibilities as a government, and I remind members, a Liberal government. We are not just not warmed-over Tories. We have a responsibility to assess the needs of the community and provide the money for it. Some members of the Legislature may feel there are areas where we have made errors in allocation, but we have the responsibility, for now, to make those allocations and we feel they have been done with fairness and equity for all.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Really, I am not a Tory.
Interjections.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Yes, but how far left are you?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I may look like a Tory and I may talk like a Tory, but I am not a Tory.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Johnston's parents are the best Liberals to come out of Renfrew county, so he should not—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: He should never have come out of Renfrew county.

I just want to say that because of the efforts of restraint, which everyone recognizes, and on the basis of increasing our revenue, which members talk about from time to time, we now have the

lowest net cash requirement of any Ontario government in 19 years. As a matter of fact, one has to go back to the sainted, much-missed John Robarts for a period of time when the cash requirement was any lower. To tell members the truth, if one were to equalize the value of the dollars, our cash requirement would probably be as low as at any time in the province since 1907. I am not sure about that number and I will stick with the 19 years, if members do not mind.

The spending per capita—and this is important—is below that of six other provinces. We are seventh; so anybody who has the impression that somehow our expenditures are too high must surely have an extremely conservative view of the world, and I understand that there are a few of those around.

I would also say that the spending is well below the growth of the economy. That really means that as the wealth of the community of Ontario expands, as we have more factories and more services offered, naturally we have more taxes collected, and our expenditure is below that growth. That is a goal I believe is important and I hope I can maintain it.

We have the third-lowest personal income tax rate in Canada and, in fact, if one focuses on low income and middle income, and that includes almost all members, it means we have the second-lowest personal income tax rate in Canada. So if they are trying to sell to their poor constituents, as oppositionists sometimes do, the fact that somehow or other that tax has got too high, well, they are just wrong.

I want to say something about the personal income tax, because I read in the *Globe and Mail* that Michael Wilson was displeased by the fact that we raised our share of the federal tax payable by one per cent. I understand that our situation under the federal-provincial tax collection agreement means that we do not have the right nor the power to levy a tax on taxable income or anything like that, other than we can levy a tax that is calculated as a percentage of the federal tax payable. Right now we are at 50 per cent. After the Legislature—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Fifty per cent?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: This is the problem, because there are certain benighted people who think about their place in the political spectrum, who think a 50 per cent tax is high. It is half what the federal people take, so please try to get that.

Mr. Breagh: I hope you didn't need a calculator to do that.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: OK, all right.

So with tax reform, the government of Canada reduced the layers of the progressive tax regime to three levels. That really meant there was a substantial windfall for high-income people and, in fact, at the lower end of the spectrum people were paying more than they had before.

Mr. Pouliot: Question.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Wait a minute.

Michael Wilson, when he first became Minister of Finance, abolished the old Liberal tax reduction program. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) in a previous incarnation would have spoken about the inadequacies of that tax reduction program, but at least it was there. The Tories abolished it with the idea that they had to widen the base of personal income tax as much as possible. In reducing the nine levels to three, Mr. Wilson very properly—and I commend him for this—reintroduced the tax reduction program.

In so doing, we found our revenue from the personal income tax base of Ontario would be reduced by \$510 million. If he were here, he would say, "I gave you other money," and that is correct, but I am talking about the source of revenue from personal income tax.

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With the demands on this government and my requirement that we reduce our borrowing, at least significantly, if not completely this year, I felt we would have to allow the water to rise in that well at least part-way. By increasing the personal income tax rate one per cent, we still leave \$238 million in the pockets of our Ontario personal income tax payers. They have more there, left over from the reductions at the federal level, but it could be that the government of Canada will adjust that next year so that it really means that, come July 1, the reductions from the paycheques of working people in Ontario will be lower than they otherwise would have been. Our revenue from personal income tax, as members know, has been reduced.

Mr. Speaker, I seem to be timing my speech from the wrong clock. I would also say, in completing my remarks, which I thought at one time were very brief indeed, that I sometimes notice when the Leader of the Opposition is speaking that the clock goes very slowly, but this one has stopped all together.

The corporation taxes have not been raised, but as members know, the base has been dramatically increased. Certainly, there are those who might be listening or hearing a report of this speech who would say, "You certainly should have reduced that rate." I think the honourable

members, having perused the budget carefully over the weekend, would be aware that corporations pay a larger share of the total revenue of Ontario this year than they did last.

The one section that is smaller is the contribution from the government of Canada. That is because the payments under established programs have been substantially reduced in the rate of increase, to be fair. I think the members are aware that not too many years ago the government of Canada, in endeavouring to pay half the costs of medicare and half the costs of post-secondary education, in fact transferred something over 50 per cent in established programs financing to the provinces. This has been reduced this year until it is only about 38 per cent. The rate of growth is about seven per cent from the government of Canada, but in the costs we are undertaking, the rate of growth, particularly for health, is over 11 per cent.

This provides substantial pressure on all of us, as legislators, to see that the tax base is productive enough to pay the bills, and that is what we are endeavouring to do. On the economic side, I want to list a few of these important facts. The economy continues to grow at a phenomenal rate, 8.9 per cent this year, with real growth about 3.7 per cent. Record job creation is expected in this year, 180,000 net new jobs, and these are not all frying hamburgers.

Mr. Breagh: That is in the Premier's office alone.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: This is good. The inflation is down to 4.7.

There are those who say the budget is inflationary—the Minister of Finance has implied that himself—but one has to remember that since 1986 the tax take from Ontario to the federal level has increased by \$1.6 billion. This rather modest expansion of the revenue production in Ontario in this budget will be only \$960 million this year and about \$1.2 billion when it is mature, so they are taking more than we are.

He has indicated that the sales tax increase might very well be a spur to inflation. My own view is that it will not be a continuing spur to inflation and that if he thinks so, the contemplation of large new consumer taxes a year from now, perhaps after a federal election, should be set aside, unless, of course, another party is managing the affairs of the nation, which could happen.

Just in running down this rather rapidly, I think the honourable members should see the salient points in the budget. Business investment will be up \$28 billion. Housing investment from the

private sector will be up \$20 billion. Growth in the north will be a net 27,000 jobs and in eastern Ontario 47,000 new jobs. Eastern Ontario is actually growing faster than the rest of the province as a whole. For low-income people, we have already spoken about the advantages that are there. Some 1.8 million people will benefit from the property and sales tax credit, and the maximum property and sales tax credit has been doubled.

The Ontario tax reduction program will affect 350,000 people who still pay federal tax but will pay no provincial tax. OHIP premium assistance for 30,000 more people, for a total of 265,000 singles and 85,000 families, is another rather timid step, but a real one all the same, to fulfilling the commitment that we would get away from the dependence on premiums to support OHIP. Shelter subsidies have been strengthened. Two billion dollars in financing has been made available from Canada pension funds for low-income housing.

Mr. Speaker, I think you are aware that during these brief remarks I have tried to set out for the honourable members what we have attempted to do in this budget, that we are attempting to improve the opportunities for the people of this province to put themselves in a competitive position vis-à-vis the markets of the world, but, more than that, to see that our young people have the sort of opportunities in their own community that we had when it was our turn to come out of education and into the world of productive involvement in the community. We feel that without that we will be failing the young people who are coming forward.

This involves a substantial commitment to the quality of education, to all the people, but particularly the ageing sector, which is growing in size. We want to maintain and improve the quality of our medical and hospital services. We have substantial responsibilities on a regional aspect in the province for the north and the east, and in a sectoral area particularly to the farmers. We feel that in each instance this budget responds to those requirements.

In closing, I feel I can work well with the government of Canada. Mr. Wilson chairs a panel of treasurers. While he may not be fully satisfied with the initiatives in this budget, I think the members are aware from comments that I have made I am not fully satisfied with his; but both of us understand that we have, under our Constitution, responsibilities in our own jurisdictions.

From my point of view, it was necessary to provide the funds to lead Ontario into the educational requirements of the future. We want to respond to the requirements of competitiveness that have been set out by the Premier's Council and, from my own personal requirement, we want to see that the bills are paid and that revenue is strong enough to support us as we move with confidence into a great future.

[Applause]

Mr. Laughren: I thank the members for their applause.

On motion by Mr. Laughren, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

ANSWER TO QUESTION IN ORDERS AND NOTICES**INTERIM ANSWER**

100. Mr. McLean: Hon. Mr. O'Neil—The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation cannot answer the question in the time provided. An answer will be available to the Legislature on or about May 6, 1988.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**RETAIL STORE HOURS**

Sessional paper P-7, re Sunday shopping.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The government has concluded that municipalities should have the option to decide retail hours on Sunday.

Since attitudes and conditions vary widely across the province, municipal governments are in the best position to determine, locally, appropriate approaches to this issue. It should be emphasized that this does not imply wide-open Sunday shopping. Those municipalities that wish

to open may do so. Those that wish to restrict Sunday shopping may require retailers to remain closed on Sunday.

The current situation clearly needs to be addressed. Inconsistencies in the present legislation have led to unfairness and uneven enforcement of the law. Social changes have also led many to call for a revision of the law to accommodate local conditions and attitudes. The government has been consulting with a number of groups regarding this important subject.

INTERIM RESPONSE

Sessional paper P-13, re creation of one consolidated school system.

Hon. Mr. Ward: The answer is not available at this time. An answer will be available on or about May 5, 1988.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

- Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Tuesday, April 26, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 26, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

COMMISSION ON ELECTION FINANCES

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House I have today laid upon the table the 11th report of the Commission on Election Finances respecting the indemnities and allowances of the members of the Legislative Assembly. For the information of the members, I have placed copies of this report inside their desks.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

MARIA OCIEPKA

Mr. Allen: Yesterday, here at the Legislature, an organization which calls itself LIFT, Low Income Families Together, held a day-long vigil in memory of Maria Ociepka.

Maria Ociepka died suddenly at age 28 on September 12, 1985, but in her few years as a welfare activist she made an indelible mark and left a memory which burns bright. She founded the province-wide Mothers' Action Group in 1981 to give a voice to her moms, as she called them—sole-support mothers—and to the poor in general.

As co-ordinator of the Mothers' Action Group, she developed the first formal alliance between social service workers and the clients they serve. A single mother herself, she was poor all her life. She was fearless in defence of her moms as she fought the bureaucratic barriers they had to overcome, but she was respected at every level of government because she did her research well. She knew policies, she knew legislation and regulations forward and backwards, and she had a penetrating analysis of the poverty system.

If she cared for any more than the moms, it was the kids who were trapped in poverty, whose dreams and hopes would be cut short by a society whose wealth could wipe out their poverty if it but cared enough. Maria Ociepka gave new hope to those who were too beaten down to care. Like her friends in vigil yesterday, we too would do well to pause for a few moments to remember her.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Cousens: I would like to make a statement on the housing problem and the cost to

tenants of the rent review backlog. While taxpayers' dollars allocated for rent review have almost doubled from 1986 to 1987, the backlog of applications for rent review has risen from 23,000 to 26,000, according to Michael Melling, chairman of the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations. Based on the government's own estimates, at least \$28 million will be spent on rent review this year. This amount is almost double what it spent in 1986-87.

With the \$28-million rent review budget and at least 26,000 rent review applicants on indefinite hold, the cost to these tenants is an incredible \$1,076 each. Never mind tenant frustrations over the red tape associated with the Liberal government's rent review program, the cost of this horrendous mismanagement is just another sad example of the government's inability to deliver on commitments it has made both to tenants and to landlords in this province.

Clearly, it is time for the Liberal government to stand up and take note of the ineffectiveness of continually filling the pockets of bureaucrats at such an enormous cost to tenants.

1996 OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES

Mr. Adams: It has been suggested in this House that the 1996 Olympics should be held in Greece. This is sentimental rubbish. If Greece had been really keen on the Olympics, she would not have let them lapse 2,000 years ago. Now, two millennia later, with \$2 billion from the European Community, Greece is being considered again.

The modern Olympics are a very high-powered, complex affair. I believe the International Olympic Committee should select the site solely on the basis of the merits of the bids. The games should go to the most suitable and deserving host, and Ontario is the most suitable and deserving host.

We are suitable because we have the administrative expertise and the sports know-how. We have facilities here in Toronto and in many communities across this province. We are a secure, multicultural society ready and able to receive athletes from every country in the world. We are the most deserving host because Canada and Ontario have unequalled commitments to

fitness and sports. Our own grass-roots Ontario games program involves more sports than the Olympics themselves.

I say to my friend the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert), 1996 would be ideal from the point of view of the provincial economy. We want an Ontario-wide Olympics, and let us say for now, in 1996 or never.

"THE EMPEROR'S EAR"

Mr. Farnan: The Emperor's Ear:

The emperor presided over a very large court. The poor emperor, he had too many courtiers and couldn't remember all their names. So, to avoid embarrassment, he decided to confide in only three of them. Of course, the other courtiers were jealous, but still they pampered the emperor. They beamed in his presence. They even wore the red garb favoured by the emperor. They applauded excessively the emperor's every trivial utterance.

But what could the emperor do? He only had two ears and three advisers. Every time one of the emperor's advisers finished briefing the emperor, the third was poised and ready to take his place. Little wonder the courtiers began to whisper secretly among themselves: "I do wish the emperor would listen to us once in a while. I thought there was more to being a courtier than being dressed up in red. It is difficult to applaud the emperor when he is wrong."

But it was even more frustrating for the people of the kingdom, for they too wanted the emperor to listen to them. Alas, the emperor only had two ears and three advisers, and if the emperor couldn't listen to his many courtiers who were close by, how could he possibly listen to his people who were out working in the fields? After all, the emperor only has two ears and three advisers. Poor emperor.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mrs. Cunningham: Yesterday I listened carefully to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) when he spoke, rather eloquently, of the three priorities of his budget. The first priority was an allocation of "considerably more resources into skills development."

I have been a critic for only a few short days and I have looked at the budget figures, and they tell me a very different story. During the last two years, the budget has been underspent by the Ministry of Skills Development. In 1986-87, underspending by the ministry was \$55 million and last year underspending was a whopping \$77

million. For the last two years, budgetary allocation for the ministry decreased by \$1 million last year and then was slashed by a further \$47 million for this year.

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This tells me two things. First, the programs are not working. What little spending there is is clearly directed towards advertising and publications such as these. This means an underspending and a shortchanging of the very programs and the very people the ministry is there to help, including the young people and the older workers of Ontario, those who really need the training and the retraining.

Interjections.

Mrs. Cunningham: I am glad the Treasurer is listening.

Second, this shows me that the government is not interested in correcting the problems of mismanagement and lack of planning. We really wish the Treasurer would do so, especially in this ministry.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Black: I hold in my hand today a news release from the Ontario Progressive Conservative caucus. It has a headline which states, "Black Opposed to Sunday Shopping." How did the Ontario Progressive Conservative caucus come by this startling piece of information? They came by it by way of an anonymous phone call—this, the party of Leslie Frost, of Bill Davis, of Frank Miller. My, how the mighty have fallen.

But the crucial question is not the question of the ethics of the Progressive Conservative Party; the crucial question is the one posed by the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt). I quote: "The test, says Andy Brandt, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, is whether or not Mr. Black will stand up for his beliefs."

I can appreciate that the honourable member is probably losing sleep at night worrying about that question and I want to reassure him. I want the member for Sarnia to know that Mr. Black will indeed stand up for his beliefs. I want to tell him how I am going to vote on the issue of shopping on Sunday. I am going to vote in favour of the legislation because I believe it is good legislation, because I believe it is fair legislation and because I believe it is in the best interests of my constituents and all the people who live in this province.

Furthermore, I suggest that the member for Sarnia knows the same thing. He knows very well that this legislation will not damage the fabric of this province.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

An hon. member: Seventeen seconds—go.

Mr. Speaker: Pretty short for the member for Oshawa.

OSHAWA KIWANIS HOCKEY CLUB

Mr. Breagh: I know that members have been waiting for the results of the Air Canada Midget hockey tournament. They will be happy to know that Kevin Butt from the Oshawa Kiwanis Midgets was named the outstanding goaltender. We won 78 games this year. We just lost a few when we should not have.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: Twenty-five years ago today, this House approved the legislation establishing the Ontario Arts Council. Since 1963, the council has sparked the explosive development of the arts in Ontario. Its impact has had a profound effect, not only in Ontario but also in other provinces and on our nation as a whole.

Je voudrais faire l'éloge du Conseil des arts de l'Ontario, de même que celui de tous ceux qui ont œuvré au sein du Conseil pendant ces 25 dernières années. De nombreux présidents, directeurs exécutifs et membres fidèles méritent d'être loués pour leur dévouement et leur service exemplaire.

The Ontario Arts Council was established to promote the study, enjoyment and production of works in the arts. From 1963 through 1988, the council has awarded more than 30,000 grants. In doing so, it has nurtured creativity and talent throughout our province. Everyone present can take pride in this achievement.

The number and quality of arts organizations has grown steadily over the years. Let me give members some examples. In 1963, Ontario was home to one professional symphony, one opera company, four theatres and about a dozen other arts organizations. Today the Ontario Arts Council provides ongoing support to 45 orchestras, 51 opera and theatre companies, eight of which are francophone, and nearly 300 additional arts organizations.

I am proud that my ministry reaches out to communities across the province in order to spark the creation, preservation and enjoyment of Canadian culture. Two council innovations which extend the arts to communities are Contact

and its francophone version, Contact Ontario. These programs bring together touring artists and community sponsors. Over the years, Canada Council and other provinces have followed Ontario's lead and established similar programs.

The council has also expanded its programs to reach our youth. The arts education office, for example, has established programs which enable elementary and secondary school students to experience the arts at first hand. Other provinces have followed suit.

Economically speaking, the arts industry means big business for Ontario. For example, over 182,000 people are employed in arts related positions in this province. When compared to Canada's largest manufacturing industries, Ontario's arts industry ranks fourth in terms of employment, and revenue generated by the provincial arts industry is well over \$4 billion annually.

If free trade with the United States is implemented, the preservation of our Canadian culture will take on even greater importance. We can all take pride in the fact that the Ontario Arts Council has created programs which serve to strengthen our cultural sovereignty as well as our Canadian identity.

I am pleased to note that the council's five-year strategic plan is very impressive. Entitled Moving Forward, the plan includes four goals: artistic development, audience and community development, arts research and promotion and financial stabilization and growth for the arts in Ontario. This plan provides a valuable framework for developing the arts in Ontario during the next decade.

Je voudrais souligner que ce plan est plus qu'un simple projet. C'est un schéma directeur de tout le développement futur du domaine des arts au Canada. En célébrant le 25^e anniversaire du Conseil des arts de l'Ontario, nous reconnaissons le rôle essentiel des arts dans notre société.

Before closing, I want to mention two relevant anniversary initiatives. First, the Ontario Arts Council and my ministry have co-produced a video documentary celebrating the growth of the arts in Ontario. Second, the council will organize a Canada Day salute to the arts at Queen's Park.

I would like the members to join with me in saluting the 25th anniversary of the Ontario Arts Council and would like to introduce the director of the Ontario Arts Council, Chris Wootten, in the gallery, Nalini Stewart, vice-president, and Sonja Koerner, president. Would you join me in welcoming them.

ONTARIO CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I am very pleased to announce to the Legislature today the establishment of the Ontario Centre of International Business at three of the province's universities.

An independent advisory panel has recommended the centre should be awarded jointly to York University, the University of Toronto and Wilfrid Laurier University, and I have accepted the panel's advice. The headquarters of the centre will be located at York University.

The institutions will share a provincial grant of \$6 million over five years. At the end of that period, the centre should be self-sufficient. The government first announced its intention to establish the centre in last spring's throne speech. All Ontario universities were invited to submit proposals, and four, from a total of 12 institutions, were received. They were reviewed by an advisory panel of experts chaired by Frank Petrie, president of the Canadian Export Association.

The recommendation, combining two proposals, will, I believe, result in a comprehensive centre that builds on the strength of the three institutions.

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology will work closely with the centre to examine ways in which the government can help improve our competitive position.

Participation by the private sector will be essential to the centre's success. In that context, I am pleased to advise the Legislature that several multinational firms have already expressed interest in having their managers attend courses at the centre.

Provincial and national markets have become increasingly global in recent years. Large and small businesses must learn to compete internationally.

I am confident the Ontario Centre of International Business will be an important catalyst in developing the skills required to meet these new demands.

1350

ACCESS TO CHILDREN IN CUSTODY

Hon. Mr. Scott: Later today I will be introducing the Children's Law Reform Amendment Act, 1988. The breakdown of a marriage or a relationship is, by itself, a difficult situation. Unfortunately, there are times when the parties to a marriage or a relationship decide they will use their children to continue a battle which should be over. All of us, I am certain, agree that

children in this province should never be used as pawns, and this bill underlines that principle.

We want parents to realize, as I believe the courts have begun to realize, that access orders are designed to benefit the child, to ensure as much as possible that children have the opportunity to know and to learn from both of their parents. However, we also recognize that there are times when access can be legitimately denied, either by the court or, in exceptional cases, by the parent who has custody of the child.

Because of the importance of the bill, I would like to take a moment to highlight some aspects of it. The primary purpose of the bill is to provide effective enforcement of access orders issued by the courts of our province. It will also cover cases where access arrangements are contained in a separation agreement that has been filed with the court. The amendments will provide for an expedited hearing whenever there is an allegation that access has been restricted for improper or unlawful reasons. This hearing will allow the courts to act quickly in such cases, within 10 days of the application being served. Thus, we hope to avoid situations where there is a continuing improper denial of access because an application is winding its way through the process.

As I said earlier, the best interests of the child or children are paramount. Therefore, the legislation will recognize that there are times when access may legitimately be denied. For example, if the parent with custody has reasonable grounds to believe the child may suffer physical or emotional harm, he or she will have the right to deny access, subject always, of course, to review by the courts.

In cases where there is a denial, the parent who is denied access will be able to use the enforcement mechanism I have described to have the court determine if the denial was appropriate or lawful. The bill will give the courts various options to remedy an improper or unlawful denial. That in itself is a major improvement in our system. At the moment, a court dealing with the wrongful denial of access has but one option: finding the custodial parent to be in contempt of court. Such a finding could result in a fine or a jail term, and neither, in my view and, I believe, in the view of honourable members, is an appropriate remedy in these cases.

We also want to avoid the situation where wrongful denial of access has led to courts suspending the requirement for child support payments, or to parents simply refusing to pay support until access is granted. This type of order hurts the child in two ways. It reduces his or her

right to see the noncustodial parent and it can also lead to situations where the child suffers because support payments have been ended because of the wrongful denial of access. Once this bill is passed, the courts will have a more equitable and, I believe, a more effective remedy for the right cases.

Where access has been improperly denied, the court will be able to order it to be granted at another time. This will ensure that the child's right to see the noncustodial parent is fully exercised. The courts will also be able to order, if the parties agree, that there be a mediation process, which, hopefully, will deal with the root cause of the parents' difficulties. These remedies will be available when the courts conclude that they are in the child's best interest.

The government believes it is also important in a bill such as this to include statements of certain principles. The most important one to be added to the bill is that parents shall encourage and support the child's continuing relationship with both parents.

While the enforcement mechanism I have described will apply to existing access orders or agreements, the bill will also provide the courts with some guidance as to issues which must be considered when determining what sort of access to grant in new orders or in making variances to existing orders. Among the things to be considered are the wishes of the child, the parents' plans for the care and upbringing of the child and, perhaps most important, the ability of the parties to act as parents.

Members will recall that a similar bill was introduced by the government last year. A number of groups and individuals, including members on all sides of this House, have commented on that bill. The legislation to be introduced today reflects many of the concerns that were brought to our attention, particularly by making specific reference to problems of past domestic violence. We have, I believe, a fair bill and one which will avoid some of the inequities that are present in the current situation. We have a bill that recognizes and supports the right of the child to access.

TRUSTEE REPRESENTATION

Hon. Mr. Ward: On December 16, 1987, I introduced Bill 76, an act to replace our system of school trustee distribution, currently based on property assessment, with one that is based on population.

At that time, it was not possible to introduce one bill that included all large school boards in

the province. Rather, in keeping with the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Trustee Distribution, the public school boards in Metropolitan Toronto were temporarily excluded from the provisions of Bill 76. This was done so that these boards might be given an opportunity to provide input on the ways in which the principles of the joint committee's report could be applied to the special complexities of the two-tier system of governance in Metropolitan Toronto.

In the time that has elapsed since I introduced Bill 76, I have received the input of the public boards of Metro Toronto. Rather than introduce a new bill to apply to those boards alone, I have decided to withdraw Bill 76 and in its place introduce a new bill that includes provision for trustee distribution for all school boards in Ontario, including those in Metropolitan Toronto. I believe it has been possible to respond positively to the requests made by the Metropolitan Toronto boards, recognizing the special circumstances of their two-tier governance, while still respecting the principles of Bill 76.

Since last December, I have also received several useful comments on our proposed legislation from provincial trustee associations and others in the educational community. I have listened to these concerns and I am glad to say that in introducing this new bill today, we are including several improvements that will provide more flexibility to boards in the matter of board size and in the distribution of trustees.

Specifically, a board will have the option, by a three-quarters vote, to increase or decrease the size of the board by one or two trustees. This flexibility responds to the concerns expressed by several boards, especially those that operate on ward systems, as do the boards of Metropolitan Toronto.

As well, a board may designate certain municipalities as low population areas requiring special consideration in the matter of the distribution of trustees. An electoral group may, by a three-quarters vote, direct an alternative distribution of its members to increase representation in designated areas. I believe this will address a number of concerns expressed by boards that have jurisdiction over a mix of rural and urban areas.

With this new bill, Ontario school boards will have their size and distribution of trustees determined by population. It is a progressive piece of legislation which replaces a system of representation based on wealth with one based on population.

CDC LIFE SCIENCES

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I would like to inform the Legislature of the contents of a telex which I will be sending today to the Honourable Robert de Cotret, the federal Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and the Minister of State for Science and Technology.

As the members may be aware, the Institut Mérieux of France has launched a bid to acquire a significant interest in CDC Life Sciences.

CDC Life Sciences is a Canadian-based company whose wholly owned subsidiary, Connaught Laboratories Ltd., is a major supplier of vaccines, insulin, human blood plasma fractions and diagnostics. Bio Research Laboratories Ltd., another wholly owned subsidiary of CDC Life Sciences, offers scientific research services for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. Nordic Laboratories, of which CDC Life Sciences owns 35.4 per cent, produces and markets prescription drugs in Canada.

Mérieux is a major competitor of Connaught Laboratories. CDC Life Sciences plays a vital role in the Canadian biotechnology and pharmaceutical community.

The government of Ontario is concerned that a significant change in the ownership of CDC Life Sciences raises serious questions around three issues: (1) compliance with the intentions of the Investment Canada Act; (2) the continuation of research and development and the production of health products in Canada; and (3) the impact on competitive conditions in the marketplace for these essential health products.

It is for this reason that I will be sending a telex to the federal minister responsible for Investment Canada, the Honourable Robert de Cotret, requesting that Investment Canada actively review all aspects of this proposed transaction. We want to ensure that whatever the outcome of the bid, CDC Life Sciences continues to play an active and integral role in Ontario's and Canada's business, scientific and health care communities.

1400

RESPONSES

Mr. B. Rae: I want to respond both to the statement just made by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) and to the statement made by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott).

CDC LIFE SCIENCES

Mr. B. Rae: If I could comment briefly on the statement by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, I think all on this side would simply

say it is not clear at this point whether the response coming from the government of Ontario is at all adequate in the face of yet another example of the kind of corporate cannibalism which has passed as economic activity for the past several years.

It is disturbing, to say the very least, that a company and a group of companies that have been at the very forefront of research and development, and scientific activity in relationship to our universities, and in relationship, of course, to a very historic discovery at the University of Toronto some 65 years ago, would now be up on the auction block and subject to foreign control.

To see that happening with no response from the government of Canada and with a simple telex from the government of Ontario is disturbing, to say the very least. It is an issue, obviously, that we are going to be continuing to study and to raise on behalf of the province to make sure that the technology, the capacity and our historical commitment to research and development in this province are nurtured and maintained and not simply sold off to the highest bidder.

ACCESS TO CHILDREN IN CUSTODY

Mr. B. Rae: With respect to the statement made by the Attorney General, I do want to make a couple of comments but they will by no means be definitive. I know you will be sorry to hear that, sir. Given the fact that I have not seen the legislation but have only seen a brief presented to me by the Attorney General, it makes it difficult.

I want to say to the Attorney General, from what I gather, he has partially responded, at any rate, to some conversations and representations I have made with respect to the first draft of the bill. I must confess to being continually troubled by an effort on his part to legislate reasonableness in this very difficult question of access.

I think all of us have had experience through our own personal lives in one shape, way, form or another, either as members or whatever it may be, in wrestling with this very difficult question. I think all of us recognize that there are emotions involved, that there are family circumstances involved and that there are family histories involved that sometimes courts simply cannot understand or appreciate.

Therefore, while it is important that we ensure that both parents have reasonable access, part of what I hear coming from those who argue strongly in favour of the legislation the Attorney General has put forward is a sense that somehow

a simple declaration by the courts can guarantee something called reasonableness. I do not think we can guarantee that.

I hope very much that the Attorney General will agree that this bill is something that should be discussed widely in the House and should be referred to committee. It is certainly something that should be discussed with a great many people and parents who are affected by this legislation. The objective of doing more for the rights of the child is an objective we all share.

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

Mr. Allen: I want simply to say that this party also takes pride in the achievement of the Ontario Arts Council and that we recognize the contribution it makes to our province. We notice that the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms. Oddie Munro) believes that its five-year plan is impressive. We hope she has already also noticed that the director hopes for a doubling of funding over that period of time, I believe, but she did not commit herself to that. I hope she will.

ONTARIO CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Briefly, on two statements, the first by the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod), I think it is clear that this either came directly off a teleprompter or it is just trying to prove the adage that the larger and bolder the type, the less content there is in the statement.

TRUSTEE REPRESENTATION

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The second response is to the statement of the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward), in which he is now adding to the clutch of bills which have been brought forward in terms of trying to change our electoral system for the municipalities. I wonder how many more we have to see. I am glad he has withdrawn the several pounds of amendments he brought in just recently to Bill 76, but I really wonder perhaps, with all this messing around and whatever responses he may have in the future, whether he might rethink whether this should be taking place this year.

Obviously, he is still not talking about any right of appeal. In the city of Toronto specifically, we know there is gerrymandering going on, which people in Toronto will not have a right to appeal, at least unless he changes the legislation in that fashion as well. I wait to see his next series of amendments or new bills.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What would have happened if we had gone ahead with it when you wanted us to?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Look what a mess you would be in now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, the member for Scarborough West and the member for Windsor-Riverside.

Mr. Jackson: I am pleased to respond to the recent example by the Minister of Education of planning initiatives in a legislative vein. It is interesting to note it was his ministry that raised the issue of changes in trustee representation, not the trustees. He invited them all in for comment. He listened to them. Then he tabled a bill without incorporating their recommendations.

He also ignored its impact on Metropolitan Toronto. The trustees complained about being overlooked. So then he listened to them again and made a few amendments. He threw that into the pot. The government then withdraws its bill today and introduces a new bill. Basically, the minister has got some of the points the trustees warned him about over a year ago. It is a lot of selective listening.

The approach of the minister in this matter does not bode well for something as significant and important as the democratic processes for municipal elections. We ask him to take note of the recommendations made to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) when his task force reported directly that no amendments should be made to the electoral process after January 1 of an election year.

The minister's approach in this matter has been like trying to bake a cake and making up the recipe as he goes along. Bill 76 was half-baked. We got a new bill and we are not sure if it is wholly baked. It still may be half-baked for Toronto representation. We expect something better from him in this regard.

ONTARIO CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. Jackson: With regard to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod), we applaud this initiative. We believe it will assist our university students and graduates to take better and fuller advantage of the obvious benefits from a free trade agreement and the interest the world has in that subsequent agreement, but it is interesting that the minister is putting yet another program at York University, which has one of the most acute accommodation problems in all of Ontario.

She is forcing the university to apply for these minimal dollars in target funding. As the minister knows, York is in a unique situation in using 90-cent dollars for grant purposes. In fact, they are penalized when they increase their enrolment. There are severe problems. At Wilfrid Laurier University, the cutoff this year is going to be an 82.5 per cent average. Students in droves are contacting our offices; they cannot get into that university.

When is the minister going to come out with a long-term plan for our universities and plan them instead of filling them with political, rhetorical statements in order to gain headlines and not take care of the long-term interests of our post-secondary institutions in this province?

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

Mrs. Marland: Our caucus too joins the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms. Oddie Munro) in congratulating the Ontario Arts Council on its silver anniversary. We express particularly our appreciation and gratitude to all the volunteers who work as part of the outflow from that organization. We also take great pride in the fact that we did initiate the Ontario Arts Council in 1963, obviously another great move by the Progressive Conservative government.

We do wish, however, that today had been a real celebration for the arts council, by this government's perhaps supporting the request for the particular area of funding that this organization is asking for, other than making a video and having a one-day salute. We feel this ministry should join with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology to encourage the tremendous cottage industry now developing and growing around Ontario in the arts community. The other provinces in Canada do this in a very real and tangible way. It is the leading edge of creativity. It is an area within our province that needs recognition by funding by the government and co-ordination between those two ministries. We look forward to that happening.

1410

ACCESS TO CHILDREN IN CUSTODY

Mr. Cousens: I would like to comment on the announcement by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott). The Attorney General has taken the spirit and the idea of Terry O'Connor, formerly MPP for Oakville, who introduced a private member's bill in this House a couple of years ago, and which is now in Orders and Notices in my name under Bill 45, which will do a great deal to improve access of children.

I commend the Attorney General for responding to these concerns that deal with custody, even if it is somewhat belatedly, and I suggest that he name the bill somewhat differently than he has suggested, that he call it the Terry O'Connor bill of the Children's Law Reform Act.

Indeed, this is the spirit that Terry had when he brought forward that bill in the first place. We know it is important that we do more in this Legislature to protect the rights of children. Indeed, that is part of the reason we were in this House talking about the problems of custody and some of the other things.

We are supportive of the intent of the bill. Let us hope it does all that Terry's did.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. B. Rae: In the absence of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), I would like to address my questions to the Premier, who is also acting as the chairman of the so-called health council.

I wonder if the Premier could explain to the House how it is possible, at a time when Ontario's budget for health care is projected to increase by some 10 per cent—up \$1.2 billion to \$12.7 billion—that, to give him but one example, the Princess Margaret Hospital, which as the Premier will know is the leading cancer hospital in the province, would recently have announced that it is having to close 10 of its 202 beds. Can the Premier explain how it is possible for that to happen?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I personally do not know the details of the budget of Princess Margaret and that particular situation. My honourable friend does; I am sure the honourable minister does, and I can have her respond to the honourable member.

With respect to the general budgetary question of health financing, I am sure the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) would be delighted to help him out.

Mr. B. Rae: The Premier is the chairman of a so-called health council. He announced it with much panoply in the House and told us how much it was of concern to him. Frankly, I am astonished that he would not be aware that the reason the closure of these beds is taking place is that the Princess Margaret Hospital is short some 25 nurses and cannot find the nurses anywhere. I would have thought the fact of the nursing shortage would be something that would be on the front of the pile on the Premier's desk and not somewhere simply attached to the news releases on a good day.

I wonder if the Premier could comment on this correspondence which I have received from the nurses' association at the Wellesley Hospital, which has said as follows:

"The operating room, the recovery room and the critical care areas are especially short-staffed. At one point, our operating room was short 19 nurses out of 48. As a result, operating-room time, already less than adequate from the surgeons' point of view, has been restricted again. In an effort to compensate for this, many surgeons are operating in the middle of the night and through the weekend, which means, of course, that the already very limited number of operating-room, recovery-room and intensive care nurses available must also work these hours."

The Premier must be aware of a situation which is critical in our hospitals today. Can he explain why, when his budget for health care has increased by some 10 per cent, we have such a chaotic situation today in so many of our hospitals? The only thing the Treasurer has been able to announce is that he is now going to be restricting expenditure by hospitals. Does the government not realize it has created a mess right now?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think there are a number of points I could make to the honourable member. First, the Premier's Council on Health Strategy is not looking at the current operating problems in hospitals or the allocation to that—

Mr. B. Rae: Oh.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Well, I am sure the member understands that. If he does not, then obviously he was not present when the announcement was made. It was dealing with long-term health care strategy with respect to the cost thereof, with respect to the various pressures on the system, preventive medicine, community-based medicine and other approaches than our traditional institutional approach.

Second, with respect to the nursing question, I think my honourable friend asked the Minister of Health that question yesterday and I think she gave him a very full answer.

Mr. Reville: The Premier notes that his health task force is long-term. He knows that the minister has at least four presumably short-term task forces up and running. It is beginning to sound like a joke about a light bulb.

[Laughter]

Mr. Reville: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Interjection.

Mr. Reville: No, I am not going to explain it to them. They do not get anything over there.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Reville: I wonder if the Premier, given that he is the chair of a long-term look at health care in the province, can explain why this budget that has just been brought forward continues to do more of the same, continues to pump more money into the drug benefit plan, more money into laboratories, more money into Ontario health insurance plan payments, and less money into community and public health than ever before.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With a budget of that size, there is an enormous amount of demands on those funds. Obviously, nothing is sacrosanct. We are looking at all aspects of the health care budget. The Treasurer is doing that, as is the minister with the help of a number of people.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend will say it is falling apart. That is opposition rhetoric. By any standards, in spite of the problems, we are addressing them, we are working on them. There are 2,800 nursing graduates this year. There is a problem at the moment.

An hon. member: Half of them are going to leave.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Whether they are going to leave or not, I have no idea, but these problems are cyclical. We are working on them and the minister is working on them. I do not think it is time to be alarmist that the whole system is falling apart at all. By any standards, this is seen as probably the best health care system in the world.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. B. Rae: This government has had three years to come to terms with the most difficult problem and all it has done is coast. Now we are paying the price for that coasting.

The question I have for the Premier is this: He may not have been aware of this, but apparently the member for Eglinton (Ms. Poole) last night announced the new government policy that she said was being suggested by some very important person above the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) but below the Premier. We can only conjecture as to who that person might or might not be. I have no idea. The thumbs are going. Whether it is Hershell or—

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: I do not know who it is.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: My question to the Premier is this. Is it the policy of this government that it intends to introduce a seven per cent flat increase in rents in order to deal with the backlog of over 20,000 at rent review at the moment?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: No.

Mr. B. Rae: Now that we have that definitive judgement, I wonder if the Premier can explain, for example, why it is—

Ms. Poole: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The honourable member does not quite have his facts straight. Perhaps his own colleague could confirm them. I did not imply that there was any government policy. I said that a member of the House who is lesser than the Premier—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are many occasions when members rise on a point of personal explanation to correct their own record.

Mr. B. Rae: If the member feels that I have unjustly accused the Liberal government of having a policy on rent review, I stand corrected. I would never accuse the Liberal government of having a policy on rent review. No one could do that.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary?

Mr. B. Rae: By way of supplementary, I would like to ask the Premier—

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: Oh well, another day, another 21 per cent. What are you going to do?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: The question I have for the Premier is this: On April 12, his Minister of Housing said, and I quote, "The amount of increase that could be passed on to tenants in relation to any refinancing costs is five per cent." It was the five per cent figure that the Premier also used outside when he said I did not know what I was talking about when I was suggesting that flipping apartment buildings could cost tenants as much as 15 per cent or 20 per cent.

I wonder if the Premier can comment on the situation of the building at 55 Wellesley Street East in Toronto where a rent increase of 21.5 per cent was allowed because of the financial loss provisions of the rent review law and specifically because the rent review law and the financial provisions thereof do not apply to buildings post-1975-76. Can the Premier confirm this and

can the Premier confirm that flipping in fact is causing these kinds of increases in the—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I confirm that the answer is no, I cannot confirm it.

1420

Mr. Breaugh: I wonder if the Premier is aware that the investors who own the building at 55 Wellesley Street East, 456592 Ontario Ltd., have just been guaranteed by the government's rent review decision a 100 per cent return on their investment. The only thing that the government did was to make them phase it in over a five-year period. Is the Premier aware of that, and was that his intention?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: No, I am not aware of it.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Brandt: In the absence of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), my question is for the Treasurer. It relates to the statement that the Treasurer made yesterday, I believe, with respect to deficits in the health care system relating to the operation of hospitals.

I wonder if the Treasurer could share with this House whether he in fact was in possession of the Ministry of Health study relative to the very question that he addressed yesterday when he indicated that there was no budgetary provision made in his budget of 1988 relative to assuming these deficits on behalf of hospitals, nor was it his intent to pick up these deficits in the future.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I was recalling the statement made by the former Minister of Health to a convention of the Ontario Hospital Association, I believe, in which he made it clear that during the past fiscal year the Ontario Treasury would not pick up the deficits, as had occurred on occasion in the past. I think it was at the time he was announcing that an additional \$60 million would be spent to assist the hospitals in their deficit situation.

There was a thorough review of the financing of hospitals, and while I would be the last to say it is enough money, still it was entered into through a rational approach, with an indication that we were not going to pick up deficits in the future and the hospital boards, having been warned of that, would have to administer in such a way that deficits would not occur.

I think in that connection we should understand that 50 of the hospitals regularly come in with a small surplus; 130 of them come in with

their budgets under appropriate control, and no additional funding is necessary.

Mr. Brandt: As the Treasurer is aware, last year the hospitals in this province requested a 5.1 per cent increase, which was very much in line, I would think, with the level and the rate of inflation. The minister granted them a 4.4 per cent increase. This year they asked for 4.7 per cent, and once again the minister, in his benevolent fashion, has given them 4.4 per cent, while in fact the rate of inflation is running somewhat above that. I would say that the budget, in terms of the projected increases, is almost double that level.

In the light of the fact that there is a study with a cost that is supposed to be in the area of some \$2.2 million, and the study was welcomed by the Ontario Hospital Association and by individual hospitals around this province as one that would assist the government in providing information relative to the whole question of deficits, I have to ask the Treasurer why he would pre-empt that study and come out with a statement, as he did yesterday relative to these operating deficits, long before the study, with which he would have some definitive information upon which to base the position that he took yesterday, was completed.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The leader of the third party is referring, when he talks about 4.4 per cent and so on, to the money that is allocated for salary changes, which were based on negotiations coming in at about that level. To be fair, and I know he would want to be, he would be aware that the transfers to hospital boards were substantially beyond that, as a matter of fact, this year, approaching, I believe, 6.8 per cent. I would think that he should also make it known that in the years since we have taken office, the increase in operating budgets for hospitals has been just under 40 per cent.

I am not for a moment suggesting that the hospitals are in any way profligate. Far from it. Most of them are extremely well administered, and they are on very tough budgets indeed. But with the growth of the cost of medical services, the then Minister of Health, who is now the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston), which is a good juxtaposition, indicated clearly that we would not be picking up the deficits this year, that the administrators and the boards ought to be aware of that and that we were sending out teams of assistants as far as administration is concerned so that they would come under their budget. We confidently expect that, in the long run, there will be no additional

funding required, and we are assisting the hospitals in that administrative decision.

Mr. Brandt: I know that the Treasurer of this province would want to be entirely accurate with the people of this province with respect to the funding levels for hospitals. In fact, the 4.4 per cent is a correct figure, and the 6.8 per cent figure that he refers to, I am sure, is 6.9 per cent in the budget, where that figure relates to special or extended programs for very specific hospitals. Let us be clear: the average hospital without a special program in this province will get 4.4 per cent.

My question to the Treasurer is this: in light of the fact that there are at least 23 hospitals in this province that are presently operating in a deficit position and were doing so at the time his budget was released, and in light of the fact that there is a very strong feeling in the Ontario Hospital Association and among spokesmen from that organization indicating that 80 per cent of the hospitals in this province will be operating in a deficit position if he does not make some changes in his approach, what is the Treasurer's response to that organization, recognizing the difficulties that the health care system is getting into?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I felt that the president of the Ontario Hospital Association this morning on CBC responded to the situation in an extremely responsible way. He said the hospitals cannot offer an open-ended service with a budget that is restrained. We do not have open-ended budgets for the provision of that service.

I think the taxpayers and the people of the province expect all of our services to be offered on a budget. I would say it is quite clear that the operation in that particular instance is going to be businesslike. We are certainly prepared through the Ministry of Health to sit down with the hospital boards, but when their budgets were approved we provided money for approved budgets and we expect the administration to live within them.

Mr. Brandt: I would like to pursue that question, but perhaps one of my colleagues can do so later on in question period, because I am simply not satisfied that that covers the subject.

Mr. Speaker: To which minister is your question?

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Solicitor General and it relates to the recent statement by the Solicitor General indicating that she was not prepared to fund the rape crisis centres out of her current budget of some \$450 million or \$460

million. I would remind the Solicitor General that the amount being requested is \$675,000.

I would give her this opportunity, if she would, not to spend more money, as is always suggested by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), but in fact to budget adequately within the amount allocated to her to make provision for this very vital, needed and necessary service. Is the Solicitor General prepared to fund that service in the province?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I would be glad to remind the member—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member for Sarnia will be glad to know that in recent years we first doubled the amount put into rape centres, and this year the amount has gone up yet another 13 per cent.

I had a very productive meeting with the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres, and they did not have the kind of trouble the member seems to have in understanding the points I made. I said to them that we were certainly happy to look at the emergency situation of some crisis centres and look to our immediate budget for the money necessary to keep those from getting into difficulty, while we work together for a better overall approach to rape crisis funding throughout the province in a way that is planned and can be presented to Treasury, Management Board and policy committees in order to have a proper program that is properly funded at the appropriate time.

1430

Mr. Jackson: There seems to be a problem here if, after the budget process, the minister is referring in emergency terms to straightening out the funding base for these organizations. The Ontario women's directorate is planning a \$600,000-advertising campaign to promote the very rape crisis centres in this province. Meanwhile, one of those centres is closed, two are about to close and the balance of them are experiencing financial difficulty.

The minister knows there are laws in this province against advertising which induces people to use a service which, when they telephone, turns out no longer to exist. Is it not a sign of financial mismanagement when the minister spends \$600,000 starting in June to advertise a service, when the services may be closed and unavailable by May? What kind of spending priority is the minister setting for Ontario's rape victims?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The member for Burlington South will be glad to know I included a representative of the women's directorate at the meeting to ensure that the program put on was not going to create a problem for the rape crisis centres. The program will be directed largely at the public to create awareness of the kinds of problems that exist in our society and not particularly at the victim of rape, who has been served by these rape crisis centres.

They are two different programs. If you are suggesting the other one should not exist, I would be glad to deal with that. Dealing with the rape crisis centres themselves, as I think the member wishes me to as this is a supplementary question, most of them are manned by volunteers. They closed for lack of volunteers or for lack of the time of those volunteers to carry on in such a difficult area without assistance.

I have talked with them and intend to work with them to see if we can find an appropriate way for government money to be used on salaries so that if what they need most is some support help within their own organization to avoid closing, we will be able to assist them in that manner.

Mr. Jackson: Talk, rhetoric and even prayers are going to be insufficient. The minister has the money. Our point is that she is just not managing it correctly. I will give some examples within the ministry. By causing a two-year delay in the Ontario Provincial Police telecommunications project, she has created additional costs and penalties of \$1.5 million. She had doubled the size of her personal staff in her office. In fact, cutting two of her executive assistants would save those two centres in Kenora and Oshawa.

The minister's predecessor spent over \$100,000 on new furniture; last year, her ministry spent \$31,000 on an unexplained shopping spree at the Hudson's Bay Company. Finally, she wasted about \$140,000 on duplicating the software for the coroners' computer system. How can the minister stand in this House and tell us that there is no money for rape crisis centres, that all she is going to do is listen and consult, when she has doubled her office staff and spent \$100,000—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: In my opinion, the talk and rhetoric are coming from the other side of the floor. I dealt in very practical terms with the people from the coalition. We discussed how the money would be spent. We pointed out to them that, as I have said, the money was 13 per cent

more than last year, which was more than double the period before that. We had a very satisfactory talk and we will work with them to see that this money is put to good use and we will help them with future planning.

PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Treasurer, now that the budget has come and gone and we still do not have a land speculation tax in Ontario to prevent the escalating prices of homes. I wonder if the Treasurer could tell us why, despite a 68 per cent increase in the price of homes in the last two years to a level of \$212,000 for the average resale price for a home in Metropolitan Toronto, he has not been able to reassure his colleague the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. M. C. Ray), who said, according to a lengthy interview in the Windsor Star, that he did not have "a single positive comment to make about the new Robert Nixon budget."

Further, "He wondered why a province which wasted no time in adopting a speculation tax in the 1970s to stop Americans from gobbling up waterfront properties is so reluctant to crack down on Toronto speculators. 'Maybe we need a similar initiative today,' he concluded."

Mr. Speaker: The question would be?

Mr. Laughren: I wonder if the Treasurer could tell us what he is doing to reassure the member for Windsor-Walkerville that he is going to do something about the increasing house prices in Metro.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I always listen to the member for Windsor-Walkerville attentively. He is one of the best members on that side of the House. I appreciate the fact that he has important views on these matters.

As far as the land speculation tax is concerned, both the honourable member and anybody else associated with the problem would know it is the land transfer tax, which was established at 20 per cent and which is still there, that keeps the Americans, if we want to keep them out, from buying waterfront property.

Mr. Laughren: Is it still there?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Oh yes, that is the one that does it. The land speculation tax was an experiment some years ago which, when we examined it quite carefully, interrupted the real estate market of this jurisdiction for two months. It returned practically no profit to the Treasury and had little or nothing to do with controlling what the honourable member is concerned about.

Actually, there are a number of former Conservative cabinet ministers who are perhaps more knowledgeable about that experience than I. It may be that during the budget debate they would like to express their views on that.

Mr. Laughren: The Treasurer is truly concerned only with getting revenues into the consolidated revenue fund. We are talking about controlling the price of resale homes, in Metropolitan Toronto in particular.

Does the Treasurer understand what it means with the price of a house at \$212,000, with a 15 per cent down payment? That means a down payment of \$32,000, a mortgage of \$180,000 over 25 years, monthly payments of \$1,742 a month and a minimum family income of \$62,000. Given those outrageous figures, and in view of the fact that it did work the last time—the tax on land speculation worked in 1975—could the Treasurer tell us who he agrees with, the member for Windsor-Walkerville, who thinks it is time something was done, or the Premier (Mr. Peterson), who thinks he had got a sweet headache on his hands?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Whatever the difficulty and the problem, we expect there will be 85,000 housing starts this year. The private sector alone is going to spend \$20 billion in this jurisdiction for housing.

My own feeling is that if you continue to look to the past you are going to find solutions that are not fit for the appropriate requirements of our modern community. The honourable member, in looking back nine or 10 years to what was attempted by the previous government and found to be a failure, is making a suggestion that I do not think is practical.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If there is no revenue, that means you would stop speculation.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Windsor-Riverside is not asking a question.

Interjection.

Mr. B. Rae: You will find out soon enough. We have had our share of those. You have two of them in your caucus right now.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are many other members who would like to ask questions.

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Eves: Following up on my leader's question and in the absence of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), I have a question to the Premier. I need some clarification as to where the bulk of the 39 per cent increase in his govern-

ment's expenditures, namely for the health care system, is going. Where exactly is the bulk of the \$1.2-billion increase in funding to the Ministry of Health going?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the Treasurer could give all those details.

Mr. Speaker: It is referred to the Treasurer.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Yes, and I would like to refer it to the Minister of Health. However, I think the honourable member is aware that the money is spent in providing for the operation of hospitals, that we have under way a capital program of \$850 million over a period of four to five years—we have the largest capital commitment in the history of the province for building hospitals—and that the medical practitioners are billing on the basis of the service that is requested by our citizens.

I refer the honourable member to a special budget paper in the budget which simply indicates, as clearly as possible, how those funds are allocated. I commend it to him. I referred yesterday to the column in the *Globe and Mail* by Orland French. I thought it was a very interesting and reasonable assessment of the information put here.

1440

Mr. Eves: I have a supplementary to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will know very well that there is no new money for capital expenditures for hospitals in this budget above and beyond the announcement made by the predecessor in the Ministry of Health in 1986. In fact, even if one takes those amounts into account, it only amounts, I believe, to some \$252 million of the \$1.2-billion increase in health care expenditures this year.

The long and the short of it is that there is no new money for capital expenditures. There have been no new funds allocated to community-based health care, the much touted election promise of his party. There is no new money for hospital operating deficits and there is no assistance for the nursing shortage in Ontario. The people of Ontario are paying for his government's mismanagement. When is he going to get these health care costs under control? The Ontario health insurance plan system is becoming the black hole of the health care system. When is he going to clean up his act over there?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member's question is important in that it points up the lack of understanding of the budget process we have undertaken. The honourable member will be aware that when we made a long-term commit-

ment of capital, it was so the hospital boards would know at what year the capital was to be made available.

The fact that there is no extra capital means the commitment we made a year and a half ago in this capital program is continuing on our plan. Rather than use the procedure the previous government did, where it held out each year a certain amount of money and tried to pat itself on the back, we want to deal in an effective and useful way with the boards of the various hospitals.

I want the honourable member to know that this year the operation of hospitals is up by 6.9 per cent, not four per cent, to \$5,478,000,000, which is 14.5 per cent of the total budget. OHIP is up 10.8 per cent at \$4.21 billion, at 10.6 per cent. The Ontario drug benefit plan is up by 14 per cent to \$676 million, which is 1.8 per cent of the total budget.

POLICE PURSUITS

Mr. Mahoney: My question is to the Solicitor General. Over the past five years in this province, I believe the Solicitor General has reported that there have been 41 deaths in automobile accidents due to police pursuits. In 1987, Peel Regional Police, as an example, had 39 pursuits with one fatality. The police, whose job it is to serve and protect, are clearly concerned over these statistics, as is the general public.

There certainly are valid reasons for these police pursuits, but at the same time, it is the responsibility of the police and her ministry to establish rules to govern such situations. In my view, a speeding vehicle can be just as dangerous as a drawn gun.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Mahoney: Is the Solicitor General prepared to lay down rules and regulations for the police to follow in police pursuits and for the general public to understand?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Indeed, a special committee was set up to study this very difficult subject of police pursuits. I think the member has himself pointed out the difficulty of the two sides of the issue, the danger that can be created by these cars pursuing at high speeds, particularly in the cities.

The report included the public, the police forces and other professionals. We have been making a study of these. I have recently taken it to a committee of my own caucus and it will be taken very shortly to cabinet. I am sure the recommendations will take into consideration the input into that report and the consideration since

given to it by other members of the public and addressed to me.

Mr. Mahoney: By way of supplementary, obviously the police have to be asked to do their job and use their judgement in these cases. Can the Solicitor General ensure that any changes designed to protect the public will also take this flexibility into account on behalf of the police?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: This speaks to the essence of the whole problem, whether you protect the public more indeed by chasing and catching potential criminals or crime-breakers, or whether the risk to the public standing by may be too great, we must take that into consideration. It is the weighing of this that we are doing in our recommendations. When we bring forward a policy, the public and the opposition will get a chance to address it. We will make a recommendation and it will be the purpose of our new policy to make this generally available for comment and consideration. I am sure everybody will welcome finally receiving it.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. This book, printed in 1896, is one of 6.5 million books in the University of Toronto library system. More important, it is one out of 1.8 million which are literally disintegrating and are of no more use to the kids in the system than is this one.

Hon. Mr. Scott: That is a Mel Swart trick.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The member may not think it is important that the largest library system of all universities across the country is disintegrating in front of us, but I consider it important.

Can the minister tell me how much she got from the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) to help this system support the students of Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I certainly share the member's regret that over a period of a number of years there was very little support for the maintenance of our libraries, but I was very pleased to find when I came into this ministry that the government recognized that this neglect had been going on for some time. That is exactly why they provided some \$25 million to the universities in order to support the improvement of libraries, the maintenance of libraries and the replacement of equipment. We have maintained that \$25 million worth of support. We have increased that by the 4.5 per cent we have increased all our basic operating grants this year.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister will know that, in spite of her \$25 million a year, most

universities are cutting back on the periodicals and books they buy at the same time as this magnificent resource is being destroyed. Can she tell me how much money she is going to put in this year to save the resource of the John P. Robarts Research Library, the law library and the other libraries at the University of Toronto so that they can continue to be there as a resource for students in Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: The honourable member has asked for specific figures that have been specifically addressed to the issue of libraries. I have given him that figure. I have indicated that the figure continues in our basic operating grant and will continue. I am certainly aware of the proposals the University of Toronto library has made and the concerns it has. I am also aware of the concerns they have about some of the price increases they have had to face. We will certainly continue to look at the situation.

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons. On April 25, 1986, almost two years to the day, the issue of the Wheel-Trans workers' wages was before this House. At that time, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said, "This government has rejected parity as an operating principle in any of these discussions."

Will the minister responsible for the disabled confirm that in 1988 the Liberal government still rejects Wheel-Trans workers' wage parity with Toronto Transit Commission drivers?

Hon. Mr. Mancini: The ongoing discussions between the employer and the employees at Wheel-Trans are part of a regular negotiating process that takes place in all sectors of our society. As I said earlier, I am hoping they can come to a just settlement and that the disruption which has been caused to some disabled persons will stop immediately. I am hoping for a just settlement very soon.

Mrs. Marland: It must be very hard for ongoing negotiations to be based on the premise, starting with the Premier's statement, that he rejects parity with the TTC. Actually, Wheel-Trans services will be taken over by the TTC in November of this year, and at that time I hope the Wheel-Trans workers would receive wage parity with the TTC workers. Does the minister feel it is justified that thousands of disabled persons should suffer because this government is too cheap to solve the problem immediately?

Hon. Mr. Mancini: Last week, my honourable friend from across the floor and her colleagues were in fact berating the government because, they said, we were spending too much money. Now, today, she rises and says our government is cheap and we are not spending enough money. They have a different policy every day of the week.

As I have said earlier, and I wish to repeat this to the honourable member and to her colleagues who know how the negotiation processes work in this province, the employer must negotiate with the employees. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) is monitoring the situation. The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) is monitoring the situation. We are hoping a just settlement can be reached very soon. We are also hoping that when the TTC takes over the operations of Wheel-Trans, we can give new and better service to the disabled community. That is what I am hoping for.

ACID RAIN

Mr. Lupusella: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. One of the issues Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and United States President Ronald Reagan will discuss at their summit tomorrow is acid rain.

Mr. B. Rae: How about housing in Etobicoke?

Mr. Brandt: Are you in favour or against, Jim? Let us know your latest position.

Mr. Lupusella: Given the recent polls showing that both Canadian and American citizens are concerned about the effects of acid rain on lakes, oceans, and now even their houses—

Mr. Laughren: A lot of credibility.

Interjections.

Mr. Lupusella: Do they have any particular problem over there?

What progress does the minister hope to see come out of the summit?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That was a very good question. It was a most timely question in light of the fact that there is an international summit taking place tomorrow.

Although the past record of the summits has not been successful in dealing with the issue of acid rain to the satisfaction of Canadians, I would hope that in this specific case, the Prime Minister will be able to put the case not only to the United States President, but also to members of Congress because he will have the opportunity to address Congress.

What has happened in the past is that there has been a situation where the President has not been eager to move quickly. We have counselled, and in many cases that counsel has not been followed, that a determined effort be made to convince members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives to bring forward a piece of legislation which would bring forward actual cuts, a 50 per cent cut, in acid rain emissions from the United States, in order that we can protect the lakes of members of the opposition and members of the government and all of the people.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am certain there could have been a question asked and another one answered in that time. Supplementary.

Mr. Lupusella: It appears the opposition is not interested in a serious problem.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Lupusella: By way of supplementary, one of the concerns the US President raises about the problem of acid rain is its complexity and the need for more research. This view is not shared by some members of the US House of Representatives and Senate. What can be done to convince the US of the seriousness of the problem of acid rain?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: There is little dispute among those in the scientific community both here in Canada and in the United States, and I think around the world, of the seriousness of acid rain as a problem and of its damaging effects. It seems to me that if, for instance, Chairman Gorbachev can convince President Reagan to scrap missiles aimed at America's chief enemy, surely Prime Minister Mulroney can convince the American President to stop bombarding the best friend of America with acid rain.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We had a very short response and now members are not allowing another member to ask a question.

COLLEGES OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Swart: My question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities concerns the proposed cutbacks at Niagara College. I want to ask it within the context of a statement by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) in this House on April 7, when he said: "...we are committed to accessibility. We are committed to the maximum number of young people receiving post-secondary education."

The minister will know that the very best scenario at Niagara College this year is that five per cent of the staff will be laid off, eight courses will be liquidated, 143 student seats will be wiped out and transportation between colleges, most of it for single-parent mothers, will be terminated; and also, that if no changes are made in her funding formula, those cutbacks will be quadrupled in the fall of next year.

Given this Premier's commitments, I simply ask the minister, is she going to permit those cutbacks and consequent reduction in accessibility to take place at Niagara College?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I provided the House with an abundance of information on the college situation generally yesterday. In response to the honourable member's question, Niagara College faces a particular problem with declining enrolment, and in fact has experienced a declining enrolment situation of approximately 10 per cent of its student body over the past four years. I explained to the House yesterday that the funding formula provides a buffer over a two-year period, and that after that period it does become necessary to make some adjustments in the programming. I can assure the honourable member we are working very closely with Niagara and are providing whatever support is possible as its board of governors manages this situation.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The minister has addressed very minimally the problem at Niagara College. I would like to ask her what her response is to the problem that exists at St. Clair College, where there is a \$2-million dollar deficit and where 40 full-time positions will be eliminated for this fall. Is the minister prepared to see those 40 jobs eliminated and to see the programs eliminated that will result from these layoffs? Is she further aware that in all of the western Ontario colleges, the total deficit is \$12 million?

Is the minister going to continue to allow these programs in our practical colleges across this province to deteriorate in the elimination of accessibility? Is she prepared to use her clout as minister to try to protect these programs?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: We are certainly prepared to work with each of the colleges as they are managing their budgets for this year. The figures the honourable member is using are in the interim stages of being developed by each college as they look at their particular budgets, and there will be unique situations from college to college. As I indicated in the House yesterday, we have made a very large commitment of support to the colleges across this province, the

funding support being a 35.6 per cent increase over the three-year period. There are very definitely some longer term concerns with the colleges and they are concerns we are looking at through a review of the role of colleges with the Council of Regents.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Runciman: I have a question for the Premier. He may not be aware of it, but this week at the standing committee on public accounts there will be a motion before the committee requiring the auditor to go in and do an audit of the day-pass system in the hospital forensic facilities across this province. As the Premier knows, there is a great deal of concern in his area, the St. Thomas-London area, because of the brutal sexual assault on a 14-year-old girl several weeks ago. I would like to ask the Premier if he is prepared to indicate to his back-benchers serving on that committee that he has no difficulty whatsoever with their supporting that motion.

1500

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I take the member's question seriously and I respect the right of the committee to make its own judgement in that regard. I say to the member seriously that I do not direct the members of committee what to do. I am sure that if my honourable friend brings the motion forward in the committee, it will be taken seriously by the members of the committee and that they will address themselves accordingly. If they feel that is the appropriate course of action for the auditor—I was not aware of it; it may well be—then I am sure my friend will find support in trying to address this very unfortunate incident.

Mr. Runciman: I guess I would like to see a stronger expression of support from the member representing the London area, where a great deal of the concern is being expressed. The Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) said a couple of weeks ago that she wanted to have a full public investigation undertaken. Mr. Justice Callon rejected that. He said the Solicitor General does not have a right to go in there and take a look at the system. This is a public safety question we are dealing with and I would like to see the Premier indicate quite clearly today that he supports an open, public, thorough investigation of this process and that he will indicate his support to the back-benchers serving on that committee.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Again, I say to my honourable friend that we do not dictate to the committees. They will make their own judgement.

Mr. Runciman: Indicate your support as an MPP from London.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Well, I say to my honourable friend that my support, frankly, is irrelevant. They will make their own decision, as they should.

Mr. Runciman: You represent the people of that area. It is your problem.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Well, I represent the people of all the province and I try to do that as sensitively as I possibly can.

It was a terribly unfortunate incident. I am quite aware of it. There is no suggestion that anybody wants to hide the truth. We are looking for solutions to the situation, as are all parties concerned. I think my honourable friend would want to be just a little bit restrained in some of his rhetoric or his accusations in this matter.

LEGAL AID

Mr. Adams: My question is for the Attorney General. I have become concerned about the availability of legal services for low-income people in my riding. A stream of people come to my office with problems which are either clearly legal in nature or so close to being legal that you need a lawyer to determine whether they are or not. Local lawyers offer assistance on a volunteer basis in the evenings, but apart from this, the poor of my riding have nowhere to turn. What is the nature, and more important what is the current status of the minister's program of public legal aid clinics?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable member will perhaps know that the legal aid plan, which is run by the Law Society of Upper Canada and a lay committee, is funded by my ministry. The honourable member will want to know that the budget of this plan in the last three years has markedly increased.

One of the reasons I like the budget, by the way, is that over the last couple of years there has been a major increase in clinic funding, so we now have some 70 clinics in the province, expanding the system at a time when legal aid systems, which I believe are so important for the poor and underprivileged in the community, are collapsing all over the world. It is only recently that serious cutbacks took place in Manitoba in the legal aid clinic system, for which payment will no doubt shortly be exacted.

We have this elaborate system. The determination as to where the clinics will be placed is made by the clinic funding committee, a mixed lay and professional committee, in response to local applications.

Mr. Adams: Why is it that a community such as Peterborough, which is a regional centre for more than 300,000 people, lacks such a clinic? Is there anything the minister can do to help me obtain one?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I can tell the honourable member that in fact this year an application has been made by a community group in Peterborough to be funded as a legal aid clinic under the legal aid plan. As I have also said to the honourable member, these judgements as to which will be funded are made within the budget that the government provides, by the funding agency which is independent of government.

I understand, however, that very shortly the clinic funding committee will be passing on that application. If it should approve the Peterborough community group that has applied, I will be delighted to so advise the honourable member and his constituents as quickly as possible.

DENTAL CARE

Mr. Farnan: In the absence of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), my question is directed to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. The minister must be aware that as this government stalls on delivering its election promises with regard to denticare, the health of seniors will continue to be affected by deteriorating dental health, inadequate nutrition, and in many cases the self-image and confidence of seniors and their ability to socialize will be greatly diminished. Would the minister explain why this Liberal government has failed to deliver on its promises with regard to denticare for senior citizens?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I am pleased to answer that question on behalf of the Minister of Health. As the member is aware, last November the Minister of Health reconvened the Advisory Committee on Dental Care for seniors. I am also pleased to report that a senior citizen in the province sits on that committee. A member from my office is also a member of that committee.

I should also tell the member that I receive a considerable number of letters from seniors, who are not shy about indicating their needs and desires on the issue of dental care, and certainly their wishes and desires have been forwarded to that committee for study.

Mr. Farnan: Our seniors are asked once more to wait for studies—studies, I might add, with no time limit for reporting. Let me assure the minister that the senior citizens of Ontario are sick to their teeth with the broken promises of this government about denticare. In the 1985 and

1987 elections, this government made promises for programs and not for studies. Let me remind the minister that I wrote to the Minister of Health urging implementation of programs and not studies. I got no reply.

My question to the minister is this: how much longer must our seniors wait for denticare, and will the minister admit in this House today that this government has misled, deceived and in fact lied to the senior citizens of Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: The member may know that in our institutions in which seniors reside across the province, dental assessments are made for those seniors. I should also tell him that the report from the Minister of Health's committee is expected within a six-month period. The third thing the member might wish to know is that I do meet regularly with seniors' groups across the province, and while they have expressed concern about the dental issue in varying degrees from one group to another, the groups have all been extremely satisfied that their interests are being discussed by this committee.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Sterling: I would like to ask the Minister of Education a question. The Carleton Board of Education is devastated by his capital allocation announcements today. First, he put it to the parents and the taxpayers of the Carleton Board of Education by dropping his share of the operating budget of the Carleton Board of Education. Now he has put it to the students of the Carleton Board of Education by giving the Carleton Board of Education less than what it got last year, and he only gave it 15 per cent of what it needed last year. Next year the Carleton Board of Education will have 1,000 more students than it had this year and due to the minister's niggardly allocation, it is going to have most of those students housed in portable classrooms.

During the Bill 30 debate, his government said that the quality of education in the public school system would not deteriorate.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Sterling: Due to his unfair allocation for operating expenses, due to his unfair allocation with regard to capital, will he now apologize for his government's misleading the people of the Carleton Board of Education area in upholding the quality of education in Carleton?

1510

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think it is time for me to draw to the attention of some, and possibly all, members of the House that I know they are very

careful in the language they use. I remind them of standing order 19(d)(10), which makes it a little difficult for the Speaker. It says, "charges another member with uttering a deliberate falsehood."

I appreciate you were accusing the government, but I just ask all members to consider a little more carefully the language they use so that they do not create disorder.

Hon. Mr. Ward: Mr. Speaker, although you may appreciate the member's accusing the government, I do not. In response to the member, relative to the concerns he has expressed previously over the fact that we utilize equalized assessment in this province to try to generate some equity in terms of how we provide operational funds to school boards throughout this province, I know the member feels very strongly in support of finding alternative mechanisms, perhaps by pooling or whatever, so that everyone receives the same grant level. I know he has expressed that opinion previously in this House, relative to the method by which we try to equalize the funds that are available to boards of education.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Ward: Relative to the issue of capital funding, I am sure the member will appreciate that in making the very difficult decisions of allocating the limited amounts of funds that are available, albeit four times the amount that was committed during the member's short time in cabinet in the previous government—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. No one seems to be interested any more. The time for oral questions has expired.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Cousens: I have a petition, which reads as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Ontario's municipalities are opposed to the Peterson local option for Sunday shopping, we request that consideration be given to the views of these persons who have signed a petition, which reads, in part, as follows:

"We, the undersigned, wish to express our opposition to changes in Sunday shopping laws

which threaten to transform Sunday into just another day for doing business.

"The undersigned are in favour of limiting Sunday shopping for the following reasons:

"1. As Christians in the reformed tradition, we value Sunday as a day for worship and rest.

"2. Regardless of religion, families need a regular, patterned opportunity for the whole family to share time.

"3. Regardless of religion, individuals need a regular, consistent opportunity for rest and recreation. An open Sunday will erode that opportunity greatly."

So presented.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. Adams: I have another petition from health care workers concerned about an open forum of the College of Nurses of Ontario to be held in Peterborough tomorrow. It is to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We strongly disagree with the college of nurses' proposed standards and levels of nursing practice. The college has been conducting information sessions around the province the past several months and will be in Peterborough April 27. Many questions and concerns have not been addressed following these sessions.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the college of nurses to cease and desist from promulgating such divisive acts."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Harris: I have two petitions to present. One is a petition in response to an ad saying, "We don't think wide-open Sunday shopping is a very bright idea." The store involved, Living Lighting, had this petition for people to sign. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are opposed to open Sunday shopping and we want to retain a common pause day in Ontario."

This is signed, on several pages, by about 160 citizens of the city of North Bay, who signed the petition at the Living Lighting store at the Northgate Square Shopping Centre.

Mr. Speaker: You have added your own signature?

Mr. Harris: My own signature is being added as I speak.

I have a second one, as my own signature is being added to both of them, which reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"In recognition of the importance of a day of pause in our Canadian society, we ask that the Retail Business Holidays Act be maintained and strengthened;

"That the act remain under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Legislature rather than be transferred to local municipalities for administration."

It is signed by approximately 17 or 18 citizens of North Bay. It, too, very shortly will bear my signature.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Polsinelli: I have a petition, which reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is my constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of my preference; and

"Whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

This petition is signed by approximately 120 residents of Ontario, and I have subscribed my name thereto.

MOTIONS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that, notwithstanding standing order 71(h), the requirement for notice be waived with respect to ballot items 19 and 20 standing in the names of the members for St. Catharines-Brock (Mr. Dietsch) and Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston).

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the members for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) and Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) exchange places in the order of precedence for private members' public business.

Motion agreed to.

WITHDRAWAL OF BILL 76

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the order for second reading of Bill 76, An Act to amend the

Education Act and certain other Acts related to Education, be discharged and that the bill be withdrawn.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CHILDREN'S LAW REFORM AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Scott moved first reading of Bill 124, An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act.

Motion agreed to.

1520

EDUCATION STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Ward moved first reading of Bill 125, An Act to amend the Education Statute Law Act, 1988.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed will say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Ward: This replaces the Education Statute Law Amendment Act, 1987.

CITY OF NORTH YORK ACT

Mr. Polsinelli moved first reading of Bill Pr31, An Act respecting the City of North York.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) adjourned the debate.

Mr. Laughren: I am pleased to be responding to the Ontario budget on behalf of my caucus and my party.

In the month or so leading up to the budget, I and my colleagues had tried to lay out before the assembly and the people of Ontario, but in particular the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), some of our priorities going into this budget in the hope that we could have some influence on it.

In my efforts to do that, I can assure members I was assisted most ably by the people around me, in particular the research people—that totally intimidates the Treasurer—namely, Diane Bull

and Eugene Ellmen, and my two legislative assistants, Sandra Vander Schaaf and Marianne Gallagher. To them I owe my thanks.

When we were working towards the budget date, we tried to say to the Treasurer that we were going to focus on the whole question of fairness in Ontario's tax system. That was the purpose with which we headed towards the budget and that has been the focus of our comments since the budget was read by the Treasurer.

We laid before the Treasurer a lot of information—I hope not too many statistics, but certainly statistics to back up our argument in every single case. When we called for new programs, we indicated how much they would cost. We also laid before the Treasurer some opportunities for new revenues because, being as responsible an opposition as we are, we know that you cannot simply call for new programs without indicating that you also are responsible for raising new revenues. I guess that is what bothered us most of all about the Treasurer's response, because we had told him as clearly as we could that there were a number of ways in which the money could be found, and I will deal with that in some detail.

When the Treasurer tabled his budget last week, working families in Ontario were hoping to avoid large and unfair tax increases. Unfortunately, their hopes were dashed as the Treasurer raised every major provincial tax that families and individuals pay while at the same time increasing tax concessions to the private sector.

Frankly, I am appalled at the lack of fairness in the Treasurer's budget. For some time now, New Democrats, both federally and provincially, have been calling for more fairness in our tax system. We believe the purpose of a tax system is not just to be a source of funds for governments to play with but also an opportunity to make our society a more civilized and caring one.

We thought the principle of a progressive tax system was beyond challenge, but now I am not so sure that is true, given what the Treasurer has done. I also always thought that being a Liberal meant being a reformer. I still believe that that is the traditional role of Liberals—to be reformers—but when I look around me now at the large number of back-benchers, virtually none of them are raising their voices crying out for reform. There is the odd exception, the odd member who is raising his or her voice in protest at the policies of the government, and for that I commend the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. M. C. Ray) for having the courage to speak out and make his views known.

Hon. Mr. Conway: What are your views on NATO?

Mr. Laughren: I would reform that policy as well. I am trying to make the point that we did look—

Hon. Mr. Conway: Gone is the old demagogue.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: The fact is, the Treasurer and every single other member of the Liberal caucus have endorsed a tax system that is more regressive than when this Treasurer became the Treasurer of Ontario. We have a more regressive tax system now than we had when the Tories were in power. I would not have thought that was possible, but that is what has happened.

Why else would Ontario have increased the most regressive of all possible taxes, the sale tax? Why else would the Treasurer have adjusted the personal income tax rate so that a family of four earning \$40,000 per year—hardly in the upper income—will be paying \$9 more in Ontario income tax next year, while a family of four earning \$90,000 per year will pay \$103 less?

Mr. Polsinelli: Are you taking into consideration the tax credits?

Mr. Laughren: Yes, I am taking into consideration the tax credits. I would have hoped the parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer would know that.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Address your remarks through the Speaker.

Mr. Laughren: Are you sure you want that, Mr. Speaker? If the Treasurer were really interested in a progressive tax system, why would he have refused to implement a minimum corporate income tax for Ontario? We know there are about 30,000 Ontario corporations that will legally avoid paying any income taxes in the province. That is on total income of about \$4 billion, we think.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Gilles, are you the guy who sits beside him when he talks?

Mr. Laughren: The Chairman of Management Board, who is responsible for administering the funds among the various ministries, if I understand his role correctly, interjects in a way that shows he has no comprehension of what we are talking about. I think the Chairman of Management Board should simply go back to parcelling out the money among the ministers as the Treasurer tells him to do. That is his only role.

When I look at the federal tax regime for a moment, I think of the 20 per cent of the tax savings from Michael Wilson's tax reform that is going to go to the top two per cent of families with incomes over \$100,000 a year. Michael Wilson's intentions, which were endorsed, by the way, by the Treasurer, are to move further and further away from income tax as a means of generating revenue and to rely more heavily on the most regressive of all taxes, the sales tax.

A statistic that bothers me and it should bother the Treasurer—talking now about Canada as a whole—is that the Canadian reliance on sales taxes at both the federal and provincial levels is truly frightening. Nearly 35 per cent of total revenues in Canada are raised from taxes on goods and services, compared with only 17 per cent in the United States—it is twice as high here—and an average of 29 per cent in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries. That is certainly one measure of progressivity—to what extent the government taxes income and to what extent it taxes the sale of goods and services.

It is actually quite unbelievable that this government introduced a \$900-million increase in the sales tax, a move which is nothing but a cheap tax grab directed at those who are least able to pay. This is the same government that protested so strongly when the Conservatives were in power and increased the sales tax in 1982 by \$340 million. They protested so much that they walked out of the Legislature for four days and left the bells ringing.

1530

I would like to remind the Treasurer and the present government House leader of some of the things that were said back in those days. The Treasurer can say, "Well, you know, we say things we do not really mean;" I assume that he is still saying things he does not really mean.

Let me quote to the House. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) said the following, in talking to the infamous Frank Miller:

"The Treasurer's priorities are to throw out a few dollars here and then look for the political credit in a variety of other areas...At the same time, he is whacking people in this province with outrageous tax increases that I think are unconscionable.

"At a time of recession in this province, how can the Treasurer extract all these consumption taxes from those people least able to pay?...How can he justify that perverted sense of priorities when we are in such serious trouble in this province?"

Later he asks this question: "Does the Treasurer not agree with me that his new round of tax increases hits the poor far harder than it hits the rich? Was that the intention of his budget, to extract more out of the poor?"

I ask the government, what is the difference between what the Treasurer has done in this budget and what Frank Miller did back in 1982?

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: That makes a difference, does it, to the poor?

Here is another quote from the present Premier:

"What we saw in the budget was a change in the philosophy of taxation. We saw a move away from the progressive system which we, as Liberals, believe in passionately, taxation that is based on the ability to pay, and saw a major move towards flat consumption and regressive taxes. We saw a shift on to the poor, the lower-income families who have less capacity to deal with these taxes than people at higher income scales.

"As a party, we chose as a rather dramatic signal of our displeasure not to show up to vote for a couple of days." That was the Premier back in 1982.

I think it is time to quote the Treasurer. He is here; the Premier is not. This is more recent than 1982. I know the Treasurer wants to be brought up to speed. This is in November 1985, when he brought in a budget. We were debating the Treasurer's own Retail Sales Tax Amendment Act, which brought in some amendments to the sales tax. This is what the Treasurer said:

"It was tempting to say, 'Let us increase the sales tax by one per cent and thereby reap \$700 million of additional revenue by just changing one little number one little bit.' However, the attitude expressed by most of the progressive members of the House, except for the Progressive Conservatives, is that sales tax is a revenue that we want to keep under strict control and, if anything, increase what little progressivity there is by improving tax grants and by keeping it as low as is practicable."

That was in 1985. Now, suddenly, the Treasurer goes back on his own word. The Treasurer is lying to himself.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Just moved one little number one little bit.

Mr. Laughren: One little number one little bit, yes, that is right, and we have a more regressive tax system.

It is total nonsense to talk about the tax credits. They have decreased in value by 40 per cent since

they were introduced. The Treasurer has not done anything to keep them up to date.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: That is the surtax.

Mr. Laughren: That is total nonsense.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It is \$100 million.

Mr. Laughren: The income tax surtax kicks in at roughly \$90,000 per year.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: In 1985.

Mr. Laughren: I thought we were now debating the 1988-89 budget.

The Deputy Speaker: I would appreciate the member addressing his remarks through the Speaker, please.

Mr. Laughren: Well, the interjections are not coming through you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: If you address your remarks through the Speaker, you will get fewer interjections.

Mr. Laughren: All right. I am truly galled that while individuals continue to pay sales tax on more and more goods and services, businesses, as is so often the case, continue to pay less than their fair share. While Ontarians who cannot afford a new pair of shoes must pay sales tax on the cost of repairs to the old shoes as well as the cost of repairs on appliances and cars, there continues to be a whole range of business services that are not taxed.

As a matter of fact, we laid before the Treasurer a whole range of business services that could be taxed the way individuals in Ontario are taxed. If my memory serves me correctly, the amount of money that those taxes would have raised was in the neighbourhood of \$300 million a year. Yet the Treasurer does not pick—if he really feels he needs the revenues, and I have heard him say, "We need the revenues to provide the programs you're all clamouring for," then why does he not raise the taxes on a fairer base?

What we were saying right from the beginning was that if he needs more money for new programs, we do not question that. What we are saying is that he should reform the tax system so that when he does raise taxes, he is doing it from a progressive base. That is all we have said to the Treasurer. That is what we have said. We have never said there does not need to be more money for programs. We have never said that. What we have said is it must be done in a fairer way.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: And in a different way than I'm doing it.

Mr. Laughren: That is right, in a much different way than he is doing it. I try to make a point of not being personal in these debates, but I

think it is time we had a Treasurer of modest means in this province, so that there is an understanding of the burden that ordinary people in this province face.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I'm the most modest means person in this House.

An hon. member: Play the poverty game for a while and see how you like it.

Mr. Laughren: That's right.

While there are some sales tax credits which help to offset the costs of the regressive sales taxes for those living below the poverty line, the changes made in last week's budget are totally inadequate. Just to bring the value of credits back up to their original, pre-inflation value would require an additional expenditure of \$370 million. Instead, the government put in \$84 million and beat its collective chest about the increase. There is truly much truth in the fact that the rich get rich and the poor get poorer.

Incredibly, in his budget last week the Treasurer did nothing to offset the increase in the new sales tax for senior citizens. The other parts of the budget that he made more regressive I did not like but I understood, because I think I understand this Treasurer. I did not understand what he did not do for the seniors in Ontario. I really expected, particularly given the demographic shifts in Ontario, that the Treasurer would do something for the seniors. The increase in the sales tax credit, which he doubled, applies only to those under age 65. Those over 65 will get absolutely nothing, even though the new sales tax will cost them something like \$50 a year.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: They get free OHIP, free drugs—

Mr. Laughren: They were already getting that before he zapped them with his new sales tax.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: That's right, exactly right. It is just right.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: The Treasurer implies that the seniors have got a good deal. That is what he is saying to us and to the seniors in Ontario. He does not seem to comprehend the fact that 20 per cent of seniors in this province live below the poverty line, and if we look at single women over 65, the percentage is a lot higher than that. This Treasurer does not seem to understand, does not seem to comprehend.

Then, of course, if I could turn to a group of people other members in the assembly might associate with more readily than low-income people, the middle class—they are the ones who

are really bearing the brunt of this budget. A family of four earning \$40,000 a year is going to be paying almost \$150 a year in increased taxes this year as a result of the sales tax increase alone.

We know that with this sales tax increase, the Treasurer is going to increase his revenues on a yearly basis by about \$900 million. He is actually flirting with a billion dollars. One would have thought that with that \$900 million he could have alleviated some of the housing shortage, eliminated income tax for the poor, made a commitment to community-based health care and increased the share of the budget going towards education.

No, he did none of those. While the extra revenue generated from that one per cent will, as I said, be about \$900 million on a yearly basis, \$820 million this year is going to reduce the government's budgetary deficit, as I read those numbers, a deficit that was not out of line to begin with, despite what some of his critics might say. The move, by the way, to reduce the deficit we believe was made solely for the benefit of the business community that does not like a deficit anyway. That sector believes that too much money is spent on services for people as it is.

1540

Unfortunately, the sales tax increase was not the only assault on low-and middle-income people in the budget. Little was done to make the personal income tax system fairer for either middle-income families or low-income families. This assault on fairness was started by the federal Minister of Finance, Michael Wilson, although I must say that this Treasurer is following lockstep with the federal Minister of Finance.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Is that what I'm doing?

Mr. Laughren: It is not because it is more regressive that he is objecting.

Let me remind the Treasurer of a couple of things about the federal system. Under federal tax reform, three quarters of households with incomes in excess of \$100,000 will receive an average savings of over \$4,300. In fact, 20 per cent of tax savings from tax reform will go to the two per cent of families with incomes in excess of \$100,000 a year. Families with incomes of less than \$15,000 will get an average tax break of \$90.

To me, that is what speaks so loudly about the kind of tax reform that Michael Wilson and Robert Nixon endorse. A \$100,000-a-year family gets a \$4,300 break. If you happen to have an income of \$15,000, you get a tax break of \$90. That is tax reform.

The average income tax cut under tax reform for a two-income-earner family with two children making \$30,000 will be \$263. However, that same family, although it is saving \$263 under federal tax reform, has faced tax increases of almost \$1,000 since Mulroney became the Prime Minister. That is a lot like sticking a gun in somebody's back, taking his wallet, giving him back \$10 and expecting him to appreciate the \$10 refund.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It could have been worse.

Mr. Laughren: That is exactly right. That is exactly what the Treasurer and the federal Minister of Finance are saying.

In our prebudget work leading up to the Treasurer's budget, we made a number of unsettling discoveries, like the fact that in 1985, which was the latest year we could get statistics—we did not pick that year to prove any point—there were 446,000 people in Ontario earning less than \$10,000 who paid Ontario and federal income tax, while 3,300 people who earned over \$50,000 paid not one cent in Ontario or federal income tax.

Is that the Treasurer's idea of tax reform? Is that the Treasurer's idea of fairness in our tax system? While over 70 per cent of these low-income taxpayers had their largest source of income from employment, nearly 80 per cent of the high-income tax avoiders, the ones who paid no tax, were investors. Will tax reform change that? Not at the federal level and not at the provincial level will it change that.

Under tax reform, Ontarians can make \$100,000 in capital gains and pay no tax whatsoever; none. Additional capital gains are taxed even beyond the \$100,000 at much lower rates than is taxed for employment. In fact, this Treasurer has indicated that over the next five years his government will in effect be giving \$1 billion to these capital gains earners in the form of special tax treatment.

Although all interest income will now be subject to taxation, dividends will still be subject to a favourable tax treatment. An investor with \$20,000 in dividend income and no other income will pay no income tax whatsoever, while a worker with the same income level will pay no income tax.

Mr. B. Rae: None?

Mr. Laughren: Zero; absolutely nothing.

Mr. B. Rae: You're sure of that?

Mr. Laughren: None; \$20,000 of dividend income—

Mr. B. Rae: So \$20,000 and pay no tax?

Mr. Laughren: Pay no tax.

Mr. B. Rae: Not a cent?

Mr. Polsinelli: That is assuming they have no other income.

Mr. Laughren: That is what I said.

An hon. member: Go and clip your coupons.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: While somebody who works for a living and does not just clip his dividend coupons and earns \$20,000—

Mr. B. Rae: Try to defend that in Yorkview.

An hon. member: Go and count your divvies.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to see you stand on the corner of Jane and Finch and defend that statement.

An hon. member: Clip your coupons.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member for Lake Nipigon is making comments while not in his seat. I would appreciate if he would listen to the member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member for Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli) did not hear me because he was interjecting. What I am trying to say to the parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer is that people who clip their dividends or bond coupons and earn or receive—I should not say earn—\$20,000 in a year, and no other income, pay zero taxes. If people go out there and work for a living and make \$20,000 that year, they pay \$3,400 in income taxes. There is some difference, my friend, some difference.

Mr. Polsinelli: I would like to have that.

Mr. Laughren: That is exactly the point. The parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer says that he would love to have that. That really says it all. They are not going to change the system to make it more fair when they all want to get on the gravy train themselves. That is exactly what is happening, my friend. They do not want to change it because they want to be there some day. I hope this budget lays to rest any idea that people in Ontario had that we have a reform-minded government. We have a regressive-minded government.

Given the regressive nature of the federal tax reform, we said to ourselves, "Surely the Treasurer can move to make the federal tax regime a little less regressive." But did he? No, he did not. Not at all. He made the system even more regressive by raising what is already a regressive system, his taxes on that basic tax

system. In other words, since we pay a basic percentage of the federal taxes paid, if that is a regressive system, we compound it by setting a flat rate on that.

In a way, the Treasurer has his own flat rate tax system as it is. The Treasurer was unhappy that federal tax reform was going to decrease—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Speaker recognizes the member for Nickel Belt only.

Mr. Laughren: If I were the member for Yorkview, I would not want criticism of this budget to continue much longer either, because as it settles in out there what this government has done to ordinary people in this province, there is going to be a welling up of anger against this government. There has been no clearer message that this government now has a majority and now has three years before the next election. That is the clearest message that has gone out there to the people of Ontario.

This Treasurer was unhappy that federal tax reform—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: It would be nice if some of these members who do all the interjecting would every now and again rise to their feet to take part in debates in this assembly. Just every now and again. I cannot remember the last time the member for Yorkview was on his feet in the assembly. As a matter of fact, I will have to check Hansard to see if he ever has been.

This Treasurer was unhappy that federal tax reform was going to decrease personal income tax revenue, which it certainly was. So he increased the provincial share from 50 per cent of federal tax payable to 51 per cent and then to 52 per cent next year.

Let us take a close look at just who will be paying that. A family of four earning \$40,000 a year will be paying more in Ontario income tax next year than this year. Granted it is only \$9 more, but that family should have been paying \$55 less, if federal tax reform had been implemented. How about the wealthy family in Ontario? A family earning \$90,000 a year will pay \$104 less in Ontario income tax next year than this year. That is the Treasurer's idea of tax reform. It truly is remarkable.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We have the second-lowest income tax in Canada. How well can we manage affairs to please you?

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

1550

Mr. Laughren: I cannot let that interjection go by. The Treasurer says we pay the second-lowest income tax in Canada. When we went and looked at that—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Low and middle income pay more at the higher rate.

Mr. Laughren: The Treasurer is changing his tune now a little bit.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: They pay more at a higher rate.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I recognize the member for Nickel Belt and only the member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Laughren: If the Treasurer keeps interjecting, throw the bum out.

Mr. Pouliot: A bum rap.

The Deputy Speaker: I do not consider that parliamentary language, sir.

Mr. Pouliot: I will withdraw it.

Mr. Laughren: When we checked just how much taxes the Ontario citizen pays compared to other provinces, it was not sufficient just to talk about income tax; we looked at all of the personal taxes that are paid and took into consideration the tax credits, I will say, before the parliamentary assistant starts yapping again. We took those into consideration. When one takes into consideration things such as the sales tax, personal income tax and OHIP premiums, Ontario leads Canada in the amount of personal taxes paid. We were \$1 less than Newfoundland until this budget, but no more. Now we are number one. I hope the Treasurer is happy.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You copied that out of some NDP budget out west.

Mr. Laughren: The Treasurer can complain all he likes about the facts, but the facts are there. Ontario taxes its citizens more than any other province in Canada does at the personal level.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You can always tell when he has been touched.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, you can.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A palpable hit, I would say.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: The fact is, without burdening the members down with numbers, that after tax reform and after this budget next year, people earning \$40,000 a year will be paying more taxes next year and people earning \$90,000 a year will be paying less. I do not think the people of

Ontario need to know much more than that to get a sense of where this Treasurer is coming from. You earn \$40,000 a year in Ontario next year and you will pay more. You earn \$90,000 a year in Ontario next year and you will pay less than you would have before the Treasurer's budget. That is absolutely correct.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: The member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) is not on his feet ever, either.

It is unconscionable to us in this party that working families with incomes at or below the poverty level continue to pay income tax in Ontario. The Treasurer's officials told us in the budget lockup last week that a family of four earning around \$14,000—\$13,980 to be exact, that is, \$10,000 below the poverty line set by Statscan, not set by us—will have to pay Ontario income tax next year, and an individual earning \$7,900, which is \$4,000 below the poverty line, will be forced to pay income tax in Ontario next year.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: I am including tax credits. We are not talking about low-income people here. We are talking about people below the poverty line.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Which ones are we talking about?

Mr. Laughren: He is getting me confused. The interjections are going to get me angry in a moment.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The member will call someone a bum next.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: Well, he is still sitting here.

The fact is that next year, after federal tax reform and after the Treasurer's budget, people earning below the poverty line, in some cases \$10,000 below the Statscan poverty line, will be paying Ontario income tax. We think that is fundamentally wrong; yet it is going to continue to happen in Ontario.

The Treasurer says he cannot afford it; he has done all he can. The total cost of our proposal to remove people below the poverty line from the Ontario tax rolls was about \$100 million a year. We tried to say to the Treasurer, with \$900 million extra revenue in retail sales tax alone, that surely to goodness \$100 million of that could have gone to remove people below the poverty line from Ontario's tax rolls.

Mr. Polsinelli: Your figures are off.

Mr. Laughren: The figures are not off. The member for Yorkview is the only person who has challenged them. Given his knowledge base, I do not think I will take his challenge seriously.

One third of the \$300 million in business services tax that we had suggested to the the Treasurer would have paid for removing everybody below the poverty level from the tax rolls. We were horrified to discover during our prebudget research that in wealthy Ontario an Ontario family of four living below the poverty line, with an income of just \$20,000, pays more in taxes and levies than it would in all other Canadian provinces with the exception of Newfoundland. I made that point a few minutes ago. We pay the highest personal taxes of any province in Canada.

Contrary to what the Treasurer tells us, the Ontario health insurance plan is borne largely by individuals, not by corporations, especially at the low-income levels. There are over one million mostly lower-income Ontarians who pay their OHIP tax directly to the government, with no assistance from government or business. There are countless more low-income earners who work for small businesses or who earn the minimum wage whose employer submits the OHIP tax to the government, as is required by law, but the business pays nothing towards it. They are just like retail stores who collect sales tax.

Even big corporations rarely pay all the OHIP tax for their workers. For example, just to name a few, Guaranty Trust pays 20 per cent, leaving the employee to pay the remaining 80 per cent; Toronto-Dominion Bank pays 50 per cent; and the Bank of Montreal pays 58 per cent. These are some of the biggest corporations paying that kind of percentage of their employees' OHIP premiums. Then there are the 100,000 or more Ontarians who manage to slip through the cracks completely and have no OHIP coverage whatsoever.

We proposed the complete elimination of OHIP premiums over a five-year period—not unlike what the Liberal Party had campaigned on—and that, in this first year, they be eliminated totally for Ontario's working poor. The cost of that proposal is about \$160 million. Once again, with \$900 million in new revenues from the retail sales tax, we are saying, take \$160 million and remove Ontario's working poor from the burden of having to pay OHIP premiums.

Mr. Pouliot: It's simple, reasonable and fair.

Mr. Laughren: The Liberal government campaigned on the abolishment of OHIP premiums, as I recall.

I recall a quote from the Premier. He said in 1985, not so long ago: "That is why a Liberal government will abolish the regressive OHIP premium. There is no reason why a self-employed taxi driver should pay the same OHIP premium as a \$350,000-a-year bank president."

We are getting so weary of senior officials in this government—the Treasurer and the Premier—making these grand announcements, going to the people, getting the majority government; then when they get it, they renege on those promises. "Renegé" is a parliamentary word, Mr. Speaker. Believe me, I could use some unparliamentary ones that would more aptly describe the behaviour of this government since it got its coveted majority.

The people in Ontario will understand very clearly what they have done by giving this government a majority. I can remember warning the people of Ontario during the campaign, when it looked as if there was going to be a majority government, "You give this government a majority and what you have seen in Ottawa you will see a carbon copy of in Ontario." I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what difference is there?

As a matter of fact, when one looks at the tax system, they have made it more regressive than Brian Mulroney even did, and that is saying something.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for attempting to protect me.

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We have made a number of points on trying to make the tax system fairer. One of the points I tried to make to the Treasurer was the difference between the average person out there who is trying to get by and people who know how to beat the system. These are the examples we used. In one case, we have an Ontario family of four—this is in 1986, the latest figures we could get—with an income of \$21,700, which was then at the poverty line. Brascan Ltd., on the other hand, an Ontario-based corporation, in that year had profits of \$136 million; Cadillac Fairview had a profit of \$58 million; Xerox, \$59 million; and the Toronto Stock Exchange, \$6 million. Those corporations with those profits paid absolutely no corporate income tax whatsoever—absolutely none.

Mr. B. Rae: How much? Zero? Unbelievable.

Mr. Laughren: Zero. Brascan, Cadillac Fairview, Xerox and the Toronto Stock Exchange paid no taxes despite those profits. That

family with an income of \$21,700 paid \$900 in Ontario income tax and \$1,800 in federal income tax.

This is not simply a rant against the corporate sector; it is a plea for fairness in our tax system in this province. It is not beyond our capacity to deliver it. Even after tax reform, that problem is still going to be there, because the Treasurer refuses to bring in a minimum corporate tax in Ontario. It is within his means to do it and he simply will not do it.

As if to make it worse, the Treasurer stands on his feet in the assembly here and brags that we spend less on a per capita basis on our people than do other provinces in Canada. The Treasurer is truly proud of that. It is as though Frank Miller was back sitting in the Treasurer's chair. I do not want to be too unkind to the Treasurer, but I can see why he is squirming now.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I'm trying to stay awake.

Mr. Laughren: Frank Miller did not even do what this Treasurer has done. It is unconscionable to us that there are 30,000 families in this province on waiting lists for assisted housing or that there are 20,000 homeless persons in Ontario, half of those in Metro Toronto, and the share of the provincial budget for housing is less today than it was when the Conservatives were in power.

What we need is to bring the commitment to housing back up to what it was when the Tories were in power. It would probably take five years to bring it up to that level, that is how far it has shrunk, but it is no wonder we have a housing problem in the province when they have allowed that to happen.

I am truly appalled as well—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Shocked.

Mr. Laughren: —shocked and appalled, which the Treasurer thinks is terribly funny, at the price of houses in Metropolitan Toronto in particular.

I thought nothing revealed the Treasurer's true colours as much as his response to my question in question period this afternoon. I was trying to make the point to the Treasurer that the average resale price of a house in Metro Toronto is \$212,000, up \$6,000 in the month of March alone, up 58 per cent in the last two years. As a matter of fact, it may be more than that.

The Treasurer said, "But we had a speculation tax back in 1974-75 and it didn't work and it didn't raise any revenue." The Treasurer does not seem to understand that if a speculation tax is working, it will not raise any revenue. The purpose of the speculation tax is—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You were going to fund your housing program on the revenue.

Mr. Laughren: No, no. The speculation tax is to prevent speculation. It is not a revenue-raising device.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You are trying to have it both ways as usual.

Mr. Laughren: No, I am not trying to have it both ways. If the Treasurer does not want to impose a speculation tax, surely to goodness he has an obligation to take some kind of action to restrict the escalating home prices, particularly in Metro.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: The members continue to think, as is typical in a majority government, that home prices are a big laugh, because some day they hope to have one of those houses, I guess.

You now have to have an income of \$62,000 to qualify for the average price of a resale home in Metro—\$62,000.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You're making that much.

Mr. Laughren: I have my house where I live. I am not talking about me.

It takes \$1,700 a month in payments to pay for that house, with a \$180,000 mortgage.

It strikes me as truly cold-blooded to sit back and calmly watch what the Treasurer calls the marketplace determine the price of homes in Metropolitan Toronto. I do not believe it is the marketplace. I am going to tell the Treasurer a very short anecdote. I have a friend who is in the business community, who has a friend who sells real estate.

Hon. R.F. Nixon: He showed 30 houses to somebody from overseas, but didn't sell any of them. The next day the person phoned up and bought them all. I go to the same cocktail parties.

Mr. Laughren: No. The Treasurer is very close to it. The real estate agent showed 28 houses to an overseas investor. The couple from overseas left without buying any houses. The real estate agent was complaining till three days later when they phoned from overseas and said, "We will take 26 of those 28 houses." That is the kind of speculation that is going on. It does not seem to bother this government.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It is not factual.

Mr. Laughren: It is factual.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Turn up the facts. "A friend of a friend who is in real estate—"

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: I do not think we need any facts other than what is happening to the price of

homes. The only fact the Treasurer needs to know is that in the month of March 1988 the average price of a resale home in Metro went from \$206,000 to \$212,000. If the Treasurer needs more facts than that, then it is an indication that he intends to do absolutely nothing about it. He thinks that is the marketplace at work. It is speculators at work.

The proposal in the budget, which my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) so appropriately described as Ohospit is the best explanation possible for the housing program.

I just say to the Treasurer one last time that it is time we had a land speculation tax in the province to send a signal out to the speculators that they are not welcome in the home market in this province. That is the signal that needs to go out.

Mr. Breaugh: Even you are not welcome as a land speculator.

Mr. Laughren: He may hope to be there some day.

I want to turn now from the problem of individual tax unfairness to what could be described as regional unfairness in the province, although I cannot say it as eloquently as the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. M. C. Ray) when he was describing what is going on in the province. I am really talking about how the Treasurer treats northern Ontario.

The member for Windsor-Walkerville, I thought, put it extremely well. He says he is staggered every weekend by the painful contrast between struggling Windsor and ludicrously wealthy downtown Toronto. "Toronto" says Ray "is like an enormous vacuum cleaner, sucking up all the wealth, talent and growth industries in the province." His conclusion: "Somewhere along the way, the rest of the province, the Windsors, Thunder Bays, Cornwalls and North Bays are subsidizing Toronto." He wonders why taxpayers in other parts of the province must pick up a big chunk of the tab for schools, housing and transportation links required because Toronto shows no restraint in overloading its whole municipal infrastructure.

This is not an attack on Toronto. I happen to like this city. However, it is an indication of how other parts of this province feel about how they are being treated. There is no better example of that than northern Ontario. In the way of showing the way in which the economy of the north is treated, compared to the real wealth that is there, I could point out some things to the Treasurer. For example, in his budget he reannounced \$30 million for the northern Ontario heritage fund.

Let us put this in perspective. Kimberly-Clark, James River and Boise Cascade all have mills in northern Ontario. They are the fourth, sixth and ninth largest American forest products companies respectively. They had a combined 1987 net profit of \$678 million based on combined sales of over \$13 billion. The sales of those three corporations based in northern Ontario are equal to one third of Ontario's budget.

Great Lakes Forest Products, one of the largest employers in the northwest, made over \$96 million in 1987, more than tripling its 1986 profit. Abitibi-Price, the world's largest producer of newsprint, made over \$125 million in 1987. Inco and Falconbridge profits are way up, and if members look at the price of nickel, they can see why. From Manitouwadge and Hemlo, represented by a very capable member, my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot)—Noranda has extensive forestry and mining interests in the north; its 1987 earnings were \$343 million, three times those of 1986.

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The reason I raise these points is to point out two trends. Resource companies have weathered the recession years of the early 1980s and are making lots of profit with better times yet to come. But while the pillars of the northern Ontario resource economy are doing well, what is the bottom line for this government?

Will this government contemplate measures that would return some of that wealth to the people of northern Ontario who produce the wealth? The Liberals argue: "No, you can't tax the resource companies during hard times because it might put them out of business. Jobs will go. Communities might disappear." And in the good times? "Well, you can't tax them either because then the bad times might come back." It is a very strange argument. It means: "Keep your hands off. Leave things as they are."

In 1988, the Liberal government has put a siphon directly into the pockets of working people in northern Ontario, and those pockets will soon be empty if this government keeps up.

To arrive at their healthy profit picture, resource companies have performed major surgery on their workforces. Thousands of miners, mill workers and loggers have been the victims. Many have left the north, leading to a depopulation trend. Many have stayed, but they have pushed the Statistics Canada numbers to at least twice that of southern Ontario. Raising the sales tax will hit those unemployed especially hard. In Sudbury, we have at least twice as high an unemployment rate as in Toronto.

Raising the tax on gasoline is particularly onerous. Gas prices are already higher in the north. Northerners have to travel farther distances. Public transit is not as developed as in the south, so that people rely more on their automobiles. For three years we have been calling on this government to at least equalize the gas prices between the north and the south. If I recall correctly, there was a private member's motion, put by a Conservative when the Conservatives were in power, that the Liberals supported, to equalize the prices between northern and southern Ontario. They have done it in Nova Scotia. Why we cannot do it in Ontario is beyond my comprehension.

Four budgets later, after the Liberals talked about it, they have done nothing to lower gas prices in the north, and with gas tax increases of one cent per litre on unleaded and four cents per litre on leaded, they have hurt, not helped northerners.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Nova Scotia controls the prices and they're the highest in Canada, much higher than in northern Ontario.

Mr. Laughren: They equalized the prices.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Yes, they equalized the—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: No. We would not have to raise—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: That does show you how the Treasurer's mind works, though, Mr. Speaker.

If the Liberals are serious about northern Ontario, they are going to have to start feeding back some of the wealth that is created there. They are not doing it now. It is ridiculous. Instead of that, the Liberals reannounced their \$30 million to the northern Ontario heritage fund. It has been announced twice. They already owe us \$60 million, plus \$34 million from the softwood lumber tax, and what are they giving us? Thirty million dollars. The government owes us two years of the northern Ontario heritage fund, and it owes us the softwood lumber tax, and what does it give us?

Mr. Smith: What about all of the jobs going up north?

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: I am having trouble coping with that interjection from the member for Lambton (Mr. Smith), who suggests that the government take all the jobs back. Is the member suggesting that as government policy?

Mr. Smith: It was just an interjection.

Mr. Laughren: Just an interjection, and not a very enlightened one either.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member will address his remarks and ignore the interjections.

Mr. Laughren: What was so offensive and so insulting to northern Ontario about the Treasurer's announcement was that he put it in 12-year terms: not just \$30 million a year, but a \$360-million, 12-year fund. Of course, it breaks down to \$30 million per year, which has been announced twice already. But not only that; if they even live up to that promise, by the year 2000—12 years from now—that \$30 million will be worth a little over \$16 million. That is what they are promising. It really and truly was an insult to northern Ontario.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: As a matter of fact, Parry Sound is so anxious to be considered part of northern Ontario, we have a special bill before the House so they can share in the largess.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: As a matter of fact, I may even take part in that debate, because I am going to ask the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) what is so attractive about being part of the north these days. He may have some questions on that himself.

The other promise that was broken, of course, was the softwood lumber tax. The Treasurer has truly been—I had better search for the right word here or you will throw me out, Mr. Speaker. The Treasurer has truly played games with this fund. We were told that money would go into communities in northern Ontario. There is now something like \$34 million or \$35 million: total and absolute nonsense.

I would never accuse the Treasurer of lying to the people of Ontario, but he has come as close to lying to the people of the north on this one as anybody possibly could, because the north was told it was getting that money and it never got it. It never did get it. It truly is an insult to northern Ontario.

Let me quote the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), who just happens to be in the chamber today. He was speaking to the Ontario Lumber Manufacturers' Association on April 23, 1987, almost exactly a year ago. He said, "As the Premier noted earlier this year, our first concern and our first priority for use of the money from the tax is to minimize the disruptions in unemployment in the sawmilling communities of northern Ontario."

There have been 500 stud-mill workers laid off since then and nothing has been put back into those communities from that fund. Total nonsense. The Treasurer has truly betrayed the north with that fund. He has betrayed the north in two ways. One is the northern heritage fund, which he announced twice to be \$30 million and delivered only \$30 million; that is betraying us to the tune of \$30 million. Second, the softwood lumber tax, which is over \$30 million, has not been returned to those communities in northern Ontario. We have been doubly betrayed by this Treasurer, and the north will not forget it.

The other thing: He said there is going to be \$12 million in new money for highways in northern Ontario.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It is \$118 million, of which we allocate \$100 million for highways in northern Ontario.

Mr. Laughren: No, that is not true. The Treasurer is twisting the facts again. There was already \$106 million, and the Treasurer allocated an additional \$12 million for roads. The Treasurer obviously flies in northern Ontario and does not drive, because according to municipal engineers, that will build us somewhere between six and 12 miles of highway. Boy, what a decision the Treasurer is going to have to make, picking out those six to 12 miles. Will they be in six different locations or 12 different locations? Will it be all one, long, 12-mile section?

The Treasurer does not fool northern Ontario citizens by telling them they are getting \$360 million when he means \$30 million, and he does not fool them by saying he is going to build six to 12 new miles of road. That is totally ridiculous.

We in the north feel this government has put the north on hold. And as I have said earlier, we are going to hang up on the Treasurer.

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Hon. R. F. Nixon: Under our leadership, the north is going ahead—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: That is right, and you are penalizing people who live in the north because of that.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Good jobs and high pay, good education, good roads—

Mr. Laughren: The resource industries are booming, but the government's actions are not.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: —mediocre representation in some instances.

Mr. Laughren: The Treasurer obviously feels sensitive, and I would suspect even guilty, about

what was in his budget for northern Ontario. I have no idea why the Minister for Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) continues to stay in that portfolio.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The most popular man in the north. He's been elected three times already.

Mr. Laughren: That is right, and I do not know why he continues to serve you the way he does, because if I were that minister and the Treasurer did that to me, I would tell you to find a new Minister of Northern Development.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I believe a lot of things he says are right, but not that one.

Mr. Laughren: Well, it is absolutely true. I would not be part of the insult, and the Minister of Northern Development in fact becomes an accomplice to the insult by accepting it and, indeed, trying to sell this obnoxious budget to northern Ontario.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: A great leader and spokesman for the north; the most popular politician in northern Ontario. If I were you, it would make my hair turn grey.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Please ignore the interjections and address the remarks through the Speaker.

Mr. Laughren: I did not make the Treasurer's hair turn grey, but he made mine turn grey, Mr. Speaker. I rest my case.

I want to take just a moment on the health care system in the province. If there is one other area where the Liberals have broken their promise, it is on how they would treat the health care system.

Last December the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) said, "For too long the Health ministry could just as easily have been known as the ministry of illness or the ministry of institutions." She also said that her ministry had "made a commitment to redirect our efforts away from simply the treatment of illness and towards the promotion of health and prevention of disease."

Where in this budget is there any indication of that? Where? There is absolutely none. I do not blame the Treasurer for shaking his head. What total nonsense. It has nothing to do with the promotion of health and prevention of disease. There was nothing in the budget to expand community health clinics; nothing specifically for health promotion; nothing to improve access for women or for immigrants or for northerners; nothing for community mental health.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: An almost-\$13-million expenditure makes a lot of people better.

Mr. Laughren: They can put the ads in, but if they do not back it up with a commitment in the

budget, what are they doing? It is all smoke and mirrors.

There is nothing to support independent living for seniors and disabled people.

The Liberal's inability and unwillingness to make tough decisions is underlined by the fact that the proportion of the health budget that goes to the community and public health has actually fallen in the last decade. Community and public health accounted for 4.2 per cent of health spending in 1976-77, four per cent in 1977-78 and 3.7 per cent in 1987-88. The percentage is declining, so that is not a commitment to the promotion of health and prevention of disease.

At the same time, the amount going to what are known as the fat cats of the system has gone up. Doctors and other practitioners got 33 per cent of the health budget in 1987-88, compared to only 24 per cent 10 years ago.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The number's in the budget.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, 2.7 per cent, up from 2.3 per cent; and drug companies get 4.3 per cent through the Ontario drug benefit plan, up from 1.9 per cent 10 years ago.

The Treasurer and his Minister of Health pretend to be doing something about changing the health care system, but they are not doing it. They just keep loading up the fat cats of the system. That is what they are doing. They have made absolutely no commitment to the promotion of health or prevention of disease in this budget, absolutely none, no commitment whatsoever.

I would like to turn for a few moments—and I will definitely leave enough time for the Conservative critic to deal with his remarks—to the Premier's Council report. I really must touch on that, because if it is, as the Premier says it is, the blueprint for Ontario, their agenda for Ontario, then it is an important document. Now we will see.

First let me say there is much in the report we agree with. There are sentiments on behalf of workers who lose their jobs because of industrial restructuring; there is a proposal to increase worker participation; and there are recommendations to improve the research and development capacity of private industry.

But I should say quite clearly that we believe the priorities in this report are backwards. Instead of asking how people in Ontario can be employed, the reports asks how big companies in Ontario can get bigger. Instead of proposing measures to help people in small business and the regions, the report dismisses such assistance as,

and I quote, "social programs." Instead of helping to provide economic security for working families, this report carries vague promises for worker adjustment.

Let us look at what the report has to say. In the first chapter, page 38, it states:

"Raising the value for every hour worked in the Ontario economy should be the primary economic goal for the province. With greater productivity, the same amount of labour can yield more goods and services. If employment levels are maintained as productivity increases, the result is greater material wealth."

At best, the report is calling for jobless growth. At worst, it is calling for huge layoffs. The guiding principle of the report is that productivity should come ahead of employment, a principle motivated by its high-tech, big-business, multinational emphasis.

We in this party believe this philosophy is inhumane, unjust and wrongheaded. We believe that a full employment policy should be the cornerstone of Ontario's economic policy, and countries like Sweden show the wisdom of that approach.

It is really strange. The report tried to hold up Sweden as the model to which we should aspire, yet this government is the kind of government that would not touch the very things that have made Sweden the model to which we would supposedly aspire. It does not believe in them. I have never heard the words "full employment" uttered by this government, yet that is the cornerstone of the Swedish economy. This government would not do that. It is just smoke and mirrors when it talks about the Swedish model.

In showing the failings of this Peterson big-business approach to the economy, I would like to talk about the alternative economic vision which has been put forward by both us here at the provincial level and the federal New Democrats. This approach is a three-pronged, comprehensive strategy aimed at encouraging diversification, innovation and self-direction at the community level, industrial and technological excellence at the national level and global co-operation at the international level.

First, let us look at the Premier's Council report. The report calls on resource and mature manufacturing industries to make massive investments in plant and equipment to produce higher-value exportable goods. It makes admirable comments on the need to improve education and the training of the workforce. But what happens to the thousands of workers who are

losing their jobs and who will continue to lose jobs from this industrial adjustment? The report is silent. It says: "Wait for our future report on a comprehensive people strategy."

This emphasis on technology and the neglect of people is central to the economic initiatives contained in the budget. The manufacturing and processing cost adjustment and the research and development super allowance, both announced in last week's budget, will give tax breaks to companies investing in high technology. This will actually encourage large manufacturing concerns to produce more goods with fewer people. At the same time, the government is eliminating its tax exemption for new businesses, a measure that will increase the tax burden on thousands of new small businesses, businesses which will create the bulk of future jobs.

Employment is an afterthought in the Premier's Council report, because it ignores the biggest employer of all, the service sector. To quote the report: "An efficient nontrading service sector contributes significantly to our standard of living, but it is no substitute for high productivity in our trading businesses."

In other words, since service industries do not export, they do not deserve attention. Yet according to the Ontario government's own study of the service sector in 1986, this part of the economy accounts for 73 per cent of all employment, 70 per cent of the gross provincial product and 80 per cent of all new jobs that will be created during the next decade. Despite the enormous importance of service industries to the Ontario economy, the Premier's Council virtually ignores the most important recommendation from the government's own service sector study, namely, that all future economic development policies should fully recognize the importance of the service industries to the prosperity of this province.

I do not know how the Premier's Council could take a serious look at the future of Ontario and not take into consideration the service sector or that service sector study that was done. To ignore the service sector is to ignore young people and people who live outside the manufacturing centres of southern Ontario.

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Most important, though, this disregard ignores the problems of women workers. More than 80 per cent of all the women employed in the province work in the service sector. To focus on high-tech manufacturing is to relegate women workers to low-paid, dead-end jobs. There is no mention of that in the Treasurer's budget, no

mention of that in the Premier's Council report. It is simply letting them go. Instead of treating the service sector as somehow surplus to the real sectors of the economy, the government should start finding ways of ensuring that there are high-quality, well-paying service jobs in the future.

What about the economic sectors that the report does deal with? We commend the Premier's Council for wanting to improve technology in manufacturing, forestry, mining and other primary industries and for wanting to move to higher-value products, such as specialty papers in the pulp and paper industry, for example. But the economic recipe in this report will mean rising unemployment in northern Ontario, while a high-tech sector in the south grows out of government handouts and tax breaks. What is more, this high-tech sector will be so capital rich and labour poor that it will create huge corporate profits without employing large numbers of people.

It is understandable why this vision was put forward in this report. Look at the people who sat on the Premier's Council: Robert Franklin of Ontario Hydro; Helmut Hofmann of Devtech Corp., one of Ontario's leading military suppliers to the Pentagon; Norman Kissick of Union Carbide; George Peapples of General Motors; David Vice of Northern Telecom. All of these executives are furiously trying to develop high-tech manufacturing and design which will reduce their need for people. Is it any wonder they are calling for tax breaks for this sector?

Let us take a look at Northern Telecom, which is held up as a kind of model for the economy that the Premier's Council wants to develop. The report says, "Northern Telecom has been the breeding ground for a generation of...entrepreneurs."

Let us look at the other side of Northern Telecom. In its zeal to produce more with less, it has cut employment in Brampton from 2,575 to 1,800 at present. In addition, it has laid off people at London and Belleville. Employment at the company peaked in 1984, with 46,900 workers.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Leo Gerard is on the council.

Mr. Laughren: That is right. By 1986 this was down by 800, and further cuts were made last year. This is not the kind of model we want to look forward to if we want to ensure safe, secure jobs for Ontario workers.

Let us look at another example of the big business—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Leo Gerard is one of the 50 most influential people in Toronto.

Mr. Laughren: Well, it is good to welcome the Treasurer back. If the Treasurer and his Premier with their council report are serious about upgrading development in the province and about more high tech, more value added, I have one challenge to the Treasurer: I know this is not question period, but will he now, in view of that council's report, make a commitment that Falconbridge will be required to refine its ore in Sudbury rather than ship it all to Norway for refining? If he is serious about adding value to the resource industries, there is no better example of how he could do it. Right now the Mining Act, section 104, if I recall correctly, says that ores in Ontario must be refined in Ontario, but they get a ministerial exemption, or a Lieutenant Governor in Council exemption. There is an opportunity there for the Premier to put his mouth where his rhetoric is. Does that make sense?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Not quite.

Mr. Laughren: Not quite, no. Well, to do something about a problem he pretends he cares about. Maybe that is better.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is better.

Mr. Laughren: Let us look at another example of the big business future that the Premier's Council has in store for us. Let us look at Abitibi-Price, the biggest newsprint manufacturer in the world and a big employer in northern Ontario. Bernd Koken, president and chief executive officer of the company, sat on the Premier's Council. Presumably, he stands behind the report when it makes this comment about the pulp and paper industry, and I quote: "the central challenge facing Ontario is how to increase the value-added contribution of the province's forestry resource."

I want the Treasurer to listen to this. I do not expect the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Elston) to listen, but I expect the Treasurer to listen; I really want the Treasurer to hear this. This is what the president of Abitibi-Price, who sits on the Premier's Council said: "the central challenge facing Ontario is how to increase the value-added contribution of the province's forestry resource."

We know that Abitibi is upgrading its Canadian mills, but we were surprised to learn just lately, four days after the Premier unveiled that report, that the company will be building a \$500-million newsprint mill in Venezuela. The industry believes it will be the cheapest mill in the world to operate. When it comes on stream in

the 1990s, there is no question it is going to put pressure on Canadian newsprint mills—in fact, including Abitibi's own mills.

This is what Mr. Koken had to say to shareholders on Monday, April 18: "Our businesses have to be located in places other than in Canada. It is no longer sufficient to just have markets in other countries. True globalization of our businesses means having our facilities, production, manpower and technology in strategic locations around the world."

Koken's views and Abitibi's actions are perfectly consistent with the Premier's Council report. If productivity is the end-all and be-all of economic strategy, it makes sense to move your production to countries where there is cheap labour, resources or technology.

We believe the policies of the Premier's Council will simply lead to more Abitibis and more Northern Telecoms: more multinational corporations moving their production outside of Canada, more workers thrown out of work from technological change and more workers living below the poverty line in dead-end jobs simply because the government refuses to pay any attention whatsoever to the service sector. In short, we will have a society in which there is a cadre of highly educated, well-paid technical personnel at the top and a growing mass of marginalized, unemployed and poorly paid people at the bottom. That is the vision of the Premier's Council.

We believe there is an alternative to this strategy. To borrow a phrase from—I do not want anybody to get frightened by this—a United States socialist called Michael Harrington, whom I hope we have all read, we can call this kind of strategy "growth through justice." In short, it means securing full employment by ensuring economic justice for local communities, unemployed workers, women and minorities.

This national and provincial approach was outlined by Steven Langdon, our federal trade critic, in January. It hinges on local communities being able to develop strong secondary manufacturing based on our local resources, on local development boards working to suggest innovative community-owned enterprises and on full employment policies at the federal and provincial level to retrain workers displaced by outmoded resource and manufacturing industries.

It depends on a doubling of our research and development commitment and new programs to end illiteracy, train workers for needed skills and retrain workers at different ages in their lives. It also depends on incentives for domestic invest-

ment, assistance to small businesses and assurances that foreign investment will work for Canada. Finally, we want a managed trade policy instead of the Mulroney-Reagan trade agreement, which would be so damaging to our society.

With these measures, Ontario and Canada would have security amid change and we would have strong, fully employed workers able to compete in both domestic and international markets. The philosophy of this approach was summed up by Franklin Roosevelt in 1937 when he said, "We have always known that heedless self-interest was bad morals; we know now that it is bad economics."

I want to draw my remarks to a close, but I did want to lay before the assembly, and the Treasurer in particular, our views on the Ontario budget and our concern with what we see as a mean streak that runs throughout it.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Laughren moves that the resolution moved by the Treasurer and seconded by Hon. Mr. Conway, on Monday, April 25 "that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government" be amended by deleting the words following that and adding thereto the following:

"This House, recognizing that the 1988 budget fails to adopt tax fairness as its overriding objective and fails to adequately direct its programs to those areas most in need, condemns the government for:

"Increasing the most regressive of taxes, the retail sales tax;

"Increasing the personal income tax in such a way that middle-income earners bear the brunt of the increases while wealthier Ontarians receive the benefits;

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"Failing to introduce a minimum corporate income tax to ensure that corporations pay their fair share;

"Worsening the situation for senior citizens in Ontario by failing to provide any relief from the retail sales tax increase;

"Failing to eliminate the Ontario personal income tax for those living at or below the poverty line;

"Failing to guarantee accessibility to the health care system by eliminating the Ontario health insurance plan tax for all those living below the poverty line;

"Refusing to make home ownership a real possibility for first-time home buyers by its failure to introduce a real estate speculation tax;

"Failing to treat the people of northern Ontario fairly and failing to provide for adequate funding for the development of the north;

"Exorbitant tax increases in every major tax paid by individuals and families in Ontario while increasing the tax breaks going to corporations;

"Failing to stem the ever-increasing share of the health care budget which is going to the fat cats of the health care system—doctors, laboratories and drug companies—while failing to increase funding for community and public health care; and

"Failing to devote more of the budget to the provision of adequate and affordable housing.

"Therefore, this government lacks the confidence of this House."

Are there speakers on the debate?

Mr. Harris: Normally when one rises to one's feet to comment on a bill or a budget or a motion, one says, "I am pleased to join in the debate." I am not very pleased today. I am pleased, of course, to have the opportunity, but I am not very pleased, obviously, with the subject matter before us.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You are lucky for the opportunity.

Mr. Harris: What is that newfound riding the member is from? Is it just Bruce now? The member for Bruce says I am lucky to have the opportunity and, indeed, he is right. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to be elected to this Legislature. I have always considered it an honour. I consider it a privilege and one that I do not take lightly.

Today I am going to pay back the people of Nipissing, as they have asked me to do since last Wednesday, by informing the Treasurer exactly what the people in North Bay whom I talked to on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday felt about his budget, and certainly what the people in Sturgeon Falls had to say about the budget. I was in Sturgeon Falls on Thursday. To those people who missed me in Sturgeon Falls, I really was there.

I also speak on behalf of the people of northern Ontario and, of course, on behalf of the people of Ontario. Because of not a new but a traditional budgetary policy, if you like, that has been adopted by our parliamentary system, the rest of the 94-odd members are all muzzled, and whether they like it or not they have to say, "Well, do your best to grin and bear it and support good old Bob."

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The alternation of speakers doesn't give our members much of a chance, since you have to have a third of them.

Mr. Harris: Well, the first shall be last and the last shall be first—something like that. Is that it?

I want to say that what we are dealing with today is that the Ontario taxpayer has been presented, if you like, with the bill. The bill has come for electing a Peterson Liberal majority government. The tab turned out to be \$1.3 billion in new tax increases each and every year, compounded, of course, as time goes on.

That works out, as has been pointed out by one of my colleagues, to \$13.4 million for every Liberal member in the House. So all of the Liberal members who are in the House individually are responsible for \$13.4 million of this additional tax increase. I guess the people of Ontario have to be extra delighted that there was not another Liberal brought back here from London North, and in fact, sitting in the gallery is the new member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham), who has saved us from another \$13.4-million tax increase.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You won't give her any responsibility over there. You keep her in the back row and won't let her speak on education issues.

Mr. Harris: Well, I want to thank my colleagues. They had commented to me before I rose to my feet today to say: "The phones are ringing off the hook. People back home are absolutely furious with this budget, so Mike, you go ahead and give your remarks in the House. We will continue to answer the phones back in"—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It can't be in Nipissing. Everywhere but Nipissing the people might have a complaint.

Mr. Harris: Well, I will have some comments later on Nipissing.

About the \$13.4 million each, it is these Liberals, each one of them individually and collectively, through their campaign literature, through their Premier, through the Treasurer, who did not once during an entire election campaign mention the term "tax increase." In fact, in the campaign they bragged about not raising taxes in the budget they had brought in and they left that expectation, "We'll give you more of the same: no tax increases."

What happened? Nearly every possible tax source has now been attacked with a vengeance.

The Peterson government's "elect us now, pay us later" style of budgets really, in my view, can best be described by one word, and I want to refer to that word. It is called deceit. I predict that is a word that Ontario voters will become very familiar with during this government's term of

office. To taxpayers the Premier says, "Thanks a billion for your support."

Mr. Ballinger: What is your point?

Mr. Harris: If the member does not like the word "deceit," I do not like having to use it, but I will tell members that there was a by-election in London North and there were two issues. There was Sunday shopping before and after the election of September 10, and there were tax increases before and after the election of September 10. Members saw what the people of London North thought about those two issues and whether they thought there was deceit.

I want to outline briefly some of the budget lowlights that were contained in what was really not the Treasurer's budget. I said once before when I saw a budget of this current Treasurer that, in my view, it was not Bob Nixon. Maybe I am wrong, because time after time he continues to come out of the gate, but as this Treasurer has probably brought in his last or second-last budget, I would prefer to think of the legacy of his long political career as: "Well, he was a loyal Liberal to the end. He did what David Peterson told him to do. He didn't like it; it wasn't what he would have done; it's not what any fiscally responsible person would have done. But at least he did stay loyal to his leader, however misguided that leader was."

It is the Premier's budget that we are dealing with here today, and I think Ontario taxpayers should be told that government revenues will increase 8.2 per cent, or \$2.8 billion, over last year, without any tax increase at all. I think the people should know that. This government had an 8.2 per cent increase over last year, a \$2.8-billion increase over last year without any tax increases.

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I think Ontario taxpayers should be told that the Peterson Liberals overspent their budget plan last year for the third consecutive year. So what do we expect this year? What do we expect? They have significantly overspent the budget plan. Ontario taxpayers should be told that Liberal spending will increase by 8.6 per cent. That is before we see what happens during the year. Remember, last year they overspent by \$500 million; the year before that, it was about \$1 billion. Assuming by some miracle—none of the players have changed; none of the attitudes have changed—he comes in on budget, spending will increase by 8.6 per cent, about double the rate of inflation.

Mr. Ballinger: The communities are the better for it.

Mr. Harris: The Liberals justify tax increases—I want to talk about that—by saying extra money is needed to build more schools, roads and hospitals. Quite frankly, this brings me back to the word "deceit" once again. Capital spending on things like schools, roads and hospitals has not even kept up to the rate of inflation. The other spending on things like civil servants, big government and the Premier's helicopter flights to Liberal meetings has increased by over twice the rate of inflation.

I want to talk about this infrastructure spending. Members can refer to the budget if they have it. It is page 50 of this year's budget and page 50 of last year's budget. This is the great capital spending. "Hospitals, schools, roads, transportation; that is why I have to grab all the revenue." When you look on page 50 of the 1987 budget, capital spending—

An hon. member: It is 1987-88.

Mr. Harris: It is 1987; 1987-88, last year's budget. Capital spending is \$2,720,000,000. Then you look at page 50 of this year's budget and capital spending is \$2,803,000,000. The difference is \$83 million. So the increase in capital—infrastructure, hospitals, schools, roads, that whole thing all lumped together—is up \$83 million, about three per cent. The spending side is up about \$3 billion, about 9.5 per cent, so they should not tell us they are building hospitals, schools and transportation. They are not keeping close to inflation on the capital side. That was not the reason for the tax grab.

I want to take a look at page 50 again. Remember the \$83 million; that is how much more page 50 says they are spending. I want to look at one item. It is called "Government Services." Last year, it was \$107 million; this year it is \$190 million. It is up \$83 million in Government Services. Everything else is flat-lined.

What does Government Services spend money on capital for? More buildings to house civil servants. That is what they spend money on, more buildings to house civil servants. That is what Government Services spends its money on. They do not spend it on roads. They do not spend it on hospitals. They do not spend it on schools. They spend it on more facilities to house civil servants. Everything else is flat-lined.

Mr. Ballinger: This speech will sound good in Nipissing.

Mr. Harris: I will be talking about Nipissing.

That is the second deceit. The people, the Ontario taxpayers, should also know that 88 per cent of the new tax grab is going to pay for

increases in big government operations and big government spending. That is why on budget day I called it a "KGB budget"—keep government big. That is all it is for. The capital is for more civil servants. The spending is to keep government big.

We think the taxpayers should be told about this because taxpayers are paying the price. Taxpayers should be told how the government took credit, finally, on the last day as the new budget came in, for \$350 million in in-year savings, which means it could not figure out some way to spend it fast enough, like the \$30-million northern heritage fund. Can members imagine? In northern Ontario, with the needs we have there, with the disparity between north and south, they could not think of a way to spend \$30 million, so they gave it back to the Treasury.

Mr. Ballinger: Where's René?

Mr. Harris: I do not know where the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) is, but I will say he is a joke and an embarrassment representing northern Ontario in that cabinet.

In this budget, the government predicts \$500 million in in-year savings. The government says it is going to save \$500 million, money it plans to spend but will not be able to get around to.

We think taxpayers should be told what that means. It means that as the ministers go around the province and announce an increase in funding: "We have some money here in capital," or, "We have some money and we're going to have this new program;" somewhere around there somebody is out there fibbing to the tune of \$500 million; or if they are all telling the truth the deficit really is not \$473 million, it is \$973 million. One of those two things is the only explanation for that \$500 million. In my view, that is deceit.

The deceit goes on. When I commented to some of the media about the northern heritage announcement, I said to them, "As long as you guys print this garbage on budget day, they're going to keep expanding it." So they have a three-year program, a five-year program. Two years ago, they had a 10-year program so they could get it up to \$1 billion. This year they went to 12 years. I guess next year they will go to 20.

Twelve years: The budget was so embarrassing for northern Ontario they wanted to get some kind of headline back in northern Ontario that said, "A \$360-million fund established for northern Ontario." We know that is not true. It was all designed to counteract the negative

impact of taking away from northern Ontario. I call that deceit.

Mr. Ballinger: We call that boring.

Mr. Harris: What is really happening is that the Liberals have announced for the third time the creation of a fund that received \$30 million last year. The Liberals did not spend one dime of that money. This year, the fund is not receiving \$360 million. It will not receive \$60 million to make up for last year.

Interjections.

Mr. Cousens: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: I really think the Speaker has some responsibility to maintain decorum on all sides of the House. There is a rebellion over there. I find it increasingly repulsive that the member sitting in seat 39 continues to have these outbursts and you do not bring him to order.

The Acting Speaker: As to the information that was brought to my attention by the member for Markham, I remind all members that they should try to listen very carefully to the speaker with respect to this and try to contain themselves.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Nipissing has the floor and would like to complete his speech.

Mr. Harris: I said the fund will not receive \$360 million, as the headline-grabbing announcement was supposed to suggest. It will not receive \$60 million to make up for the \$30 million it took last year. The Liberals have said it will receive \$30 million. They said it last year and we did not get it, but we are going to see what happens.

Then we found out that not only is it bad enough it is flat-lined from last year, but the government came out and what it said, effectively, to the people of Ontario was: "We don't care what happens in northern Ontario. Not one more cent for the next 11 years. That's it." No, not inflation. "If there's a downturn in the economy, don't come back. We serve notice right now, not one more cent." That is what they told the people of northern Ontario.

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Then, of course, we found out there was more deceit. We found out that \$5 million of the program would go to replace money already going into another program, into the northern Ontario regional development program. So really it is \$25 million, a \$5-million cut from last year, and I guess a flat line throughout, although maybe we can get it back to the \$30 million at

some point, we are told. Well, so much for that particular program.

I think this budget is an insult to those who have worked so hard and invested so much to create the strong, healthy and vibrant economy we now enjoy. I am not talking about government. I am not talking about the federal government; I am not talking about the provincial government; I am not talking about any level of government. I am talking about those individuals who go back to school to upgrade themselves, who work hard—some of them take two jobs—who invest and take risks in a business and work 70, 80 and 90 hours a week to make it go and make it successful. They are the people who create the wealth, and governments, all governments, diminish wealth. Of course, this government is the master at diminishing wealth.

People in the private sector create the wealth that can be shared for our society; and government, when it cannot control its own expenditures, punishes the creators of the wealth. It has done it as it has never been done before in this 1988-89 budget.

Mr. Cousens: Hear, hear.

Mr. Harris: The member for Markham is on tomorrow with as many questions as he wants.

I want to say that the Peterson Liberals seem to have adopted what I described as an old, I say "old" New Democratic Party socialist philosophy, that if you throw enough money at problems they will go away.

We have seen a massive increase in health care funding, the socialization, in fact, of the entire health care system. What was once the finest health care system in the world most people do not think is as good as it was four years ago. Even the Premier himself thinks it is heading for disaster. I agree. Our health care problems are not better; they are worse. Despite the biggest tax grab in Ontario's history, probably because of the factors behind it, there are articles in the paper today talking about major cutbacks in services for our hospitals, major cutbacks this year.

Despite throwing billions of dollars at problems in housing, our problems have turned into crises. There were problems in housing when this government took office; now they are a crisis. They have thrown more money in there. What has happened? Vacancy rates are worse. The affordability problem is worse. The backlog after backlog in some convoluted rent control process they brought in is far worse. They have thrown money there.

They have thrown money at our problems in education, an education system that was the finest in the world when we left office. We are again heading for crisis. Qualified secondary school graduates cannot get into university; 10 per cent of them cannot get in this year. Most people say the problem is much worse and we are heading for a crisis. Community colleges are cutting back. Elementary students spend years in portables in a system that has become increasingly dependent on municipal tax revenues for survival.

We had a government that came in when the provincial share of education funding was in the range of 48 or 49 per cent. We had a government that came in under a promise of taking it to 60 per cent. Now, systematically, they have reduced it to about 41 per cent. This budget takes it down further again.

The underlying problem in each area of concern, whether it is taxation, the civil service, the operations of government or the delivery of health, education, regional development or any other service, is spending.

I do not believe the government can continue to throw money at these problems and treat them in the same old way. I think times change. I think situations change. I do not think anybody thinks the economy in Ontario today is the same as it was five years ago, but to a great extent we are throwing more money at those same programs. It is not how much; it is how. It is the wise use of spending, the effective use of spending, the responsible use of taxpayers' dollars and the management of the funds we have available.

Our party has repeatedly condemned this government for its lack of fiscal control, for its inability to stay within budget—over budget by \$500 million last year and by \$1 billion the year before—for its lack of accurate reporting that is meaningful to the people of Ontario and the committees of this Legislature; for its failure to review and assess and evaluate programs to see if they are working, if they are relevant before it throws more money into those programs.

Progressive Conservatives presented the government with a number of options and suggestions for expenditure control following the prebudget consultations in March. Every one of them was ignored, and now in April, and for the foreseeable future, taxpayers are paying the price.

What were the resolutions the government ignored? One was a private member's resolution I brought in requiring sunseting. All it required was that we be open, that the Legislature take a

look at all the existing expenditure programs. That was all we asked in that private member's resolution. What did the government members do? With the exception of one, who I felt exercised responsible judgement, who did not just listen to what some hackneyed parliamentary assistant said: "Ah, we don't want to go with that. It came from Harris"—he looked at it. He said: "That makes sense. All he's asking for is that we review the existing programs and make a commitment to review new ones five years down the road to see if they're still relevant." That was rejected.

Mr. Runciman: Who said that?

Mr. Harris: That was the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp), whom I admire for taking the time to read the resolution instead of just saying, "Well, how are we directed in order to vote on this one?"

I want to mention a few of the other suggestions we made. I understand that the government members could not accept them all because some said things that as individuals they might agree with but that their Premier does not agree with, and talked about fiscal responsibility. Here are all the things that were rejected by the members.

"The Ministry of Treasury and Economics initiate a review of the expenditures of all ministries to determine where spending could be reduced." Does that sound so threatening to the Premier and to the Treasurer? It does not even say the parliament; it does not say the Legislature. It just says the ministry should initiate a review and determine where spending can be reduced. No, they voted that down en masse, and the Treasurer of course ignored it.

"The government should continue to hold the rate of growth in expenditures below the rate of growth in revenues." It sounds fairly responsible to me; rejected totally out of hand.

"Pending the outcome of the expenditure program review...the government should consider flat-lining direct operating expenditures where possible in order to adequately fund priority areas." That means here is a program that is not working very well. Let us not throw a whole batch more in it till we can get a good look at it and see if it is necessary, so we can put extra into other areas. That is how we find money.

"Any in-year revenue windfalls be applied to the reduction of the net cash requirement," and there have been windfalls virtually every year the government has been in office. That means the government does not automatically spend them before anybody finds out it has them. It puts them

towards the deficit. Then if somebody justifies increased spending, that is fine.

"The Ministry of Treasury and Economics immediately undertake a critical review of all Ontario tax expenditures to determine the degree to which the various programs are achieving socioeconomic program objectives." That means the tax expenditures are those things that the government does not collect tax for as an incentive, or to give money back to people, like the seniors' tax credit; that is a tax expenditure.

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Mr. Runciman: That's a good program.

Mr. Harris: I think it is a good program. If we took a look at it and it was a good program, it would stand the test of time. I know some of the things I am saying people tell me are politically sacrosanct and cannot be talked about. But my father does not need that money. He thinks it is a joke that the government is giving it to him. There are many people out there who think it is a joke. They take it. They cash the cheque. I hope he saves it so I can get it eventually. I should not say that. I hope he enjoys it, but he does not need it. All that said was, "Could we look at the tax expenditures? Could we look at some of the tax breaks given to industry? Are they relevant today?"

Maybe there was a tax break in the early 1980s, when we were in a recession, which was brought in and said, "Companies, will you please invest in this? We'll give you a tax break to help put some people to work." Is that the situation today? I do not think so. All the recommendation said was, "Could you look at it?" It was totally rejected by the Liberals.

I think members get the idea. There were a few other recommendations. All of them dealt with reviewing, taking a look at expenditures of the government to see where some money could be saved. They were all totally rejected and they have been rejected by this Treasurer.

I want to say that this budget is irresponsible because Liberal spending policies are irresponsible. They are totally irresponsible. I think it is irresponsible for this government today or in the future to continually talk about underfunding in the past, because by David Peterson's Liberal standards it appears the whole world and everything in it is underfunded. That is the standard argument.

Our party is 100 per cent united in its opposition to the Liberal gas tax hike. We are 100 per cent united in opposition to the Liberal retail sales tax increase to eight per cent; to the Liberal hike in personal income taxes; to the Liberal

efforts to rob Ontario taxpayers of the benefits of federal tax reform, and to the uncontrolled and misdirected Liberal spending and expenditure policies.

The Peterson Liberals do not face the people for another three years, probably. But taxpayers know this is the real Liberal election budget. It is what the last election was all about. It is what Liberals are all about. It is our job to make sure that people do not forget.

I want to talk about a few specific things. I want to mention northern Ontario briefly. The other day I mentioned that this government has a strange view of regional development. Regional development usually means that if things are going really well in one part of the province, we will take a little bit there to help an area where it is not going as well.

I would ask you, Madam Speaker, and members of this chamber, to reflect on whether you honestly believe that things are going as well in northern Ontario as they are in southern Ontario. Are things improved in northern Ontario over a few years ago? Yes, they are. But not near the vast improvement we have seen in southern Ontario. So what happened in this budget from last year with the north? The northern heritage fund took a \$5 million cut, from \$30 million to \$25 million.

The money we did not get last year was given back to Treasury. What happened with gas prices? In northern Ontario there are several factors why we pay significantly more. For one, people depend on their automobiles for far more travel. We do not have subways up there. Maybe some members who have never been there do not realize that. We do not have the mass transit systems that there are in the big cities. They are subsidized and paid for heavily by taxpayer dollars. We do not have those things, so we depend on automobile travel far more than people in southern Ontario.

Like it or not, we do not have the same disposable income, yet cars cost more because of transportation costs and the gasoline to get them there. As a result, we have a higher percentage of what are called oil burners or clunkers in northern Ontario—that means those who use leaded gasoline—so they are doubly hit. Gas prices in the north are about 10 cents a litre higher now. They used to be about four cents.

Mr. Laughtren: Fifty cents a gallon.

Mr. Harris: Right now they are running about 10 cents, which is, as the member for Nickel Belt points out, getting close to 50 cents a gallon higher. Our tourism industry suffers because

when one travels, not only does one have distances to travel to get to us but one pays 50 cents a gallon more for gasoline when there. These gas price hikes hurt us more in the north. The government took \$5 million away from our northern heritage fund and refused to do anything with the \$30 million export tax that it promised would go back into northern Ontario.

The sales tax impacts on us because our prices are higher in the north, because of lack of competition and because of transportation costs. That is why I say I think the Treasurer has a strange view of regional development. Here we have the south booming, the north not doing as well and, year over year, a budget that penalizes the north more than it did last year. In effect, year over year, northern Ontario is asked to help subsidize the south.

I want to talk about the job relocation program in the north. The one thing that everybody yells out like a bunch of parrots every time anyone talks about it is: "What about the relocation program? What about the jobs that are being relocated?" I want to talk about it. We are talking year over year. There has been no new relocation in this budget. We are talking about something that is three or four years old. If they want credit for it year after year for the next 50 years, fine.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: About three more years.

Mr. Harris: The Treasurer says about three more years. We understand that logic but let us talk about it. What has happened since this government has taken office is that it has increased the number of civil servants by the end of this budget somewhere in excess of 8,000.

It is not relocating civil service jobs. Because the ministries are down here, the south does not need to benefit from 8,000. We are getting our share of 1,200 or 1,400 jobs in northern Ontario. It is 1,600 in the north? So out of 8,000 that leaves another 6,400 in southern Ontario.

That is all it is, the whole platform. The government can rob the north on northern heritage, it can rob the north on softwood lumber, it can take money from the north and point to the north getting its share of the number of new civil service jobs that have been created in this province. That is what it has done. We are thankful to get our share. We accept that.

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I tell the government, though, there are problems. The government keeps reminding everyone about the northern redevelopment program, but there are problems. It appears to me that some of the buildings being built up there are going to run \$200 or \$300 a foot.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Don't you want us to spend money?

Mr. Harris: No, I do not. If the people in North Bay can get a first-class building for \$16 million, they do not want to have to pay \$32 million for it.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: They say they don't want them there?

Mr. Harris: That is right. People in North Bay are the same as everywhere else. They do not like to see government money being wasted. We will see in the next two or three years how much these buildings are going to cost.

I will tell members what else it means. It is living proof of an example of how this government wastes money. When they do it there, the people of North Bay know they do it everywhere else, so I do not mind talking about it.

The Treasurer has said that Nipissing has benefited in a number of projects, and the other day I heard him rhyme off the projects that have come to Nipissing. He talked about the courthouse. That was approved under the old government.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We spend too much money.

Mr. Harris: Well, listen; the Treasurer talked about waterfront development, which was approved under the old government. The one project in North Bay and in Nipissing that was announced by the former government but that this government has not lived up to its commitment on is the new joint hospital.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Don't skip over the Ministry of Correctional Services.

Mr. Harris: Does the Treasurer want to keep coming back to that?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, you skipped over it.

Mr. Harris: I did not. I talked about the northern relocation program. Is that the answer for health care in North Bay? There will be some Correctional Services people there in a \$300-a-foot building. Will that help people with their health care needs? I want to talk about health care, because that is one commitment the government has not lived up to. That is one commitment that has not been there.

There is a second commitment that affects us, particularly in my riding but in all of northeastern Ontario, and that is psychiatric services. The former government made a commitment to the people of northeastern Ontario that it would fund new beds in Timmins, in Sudbury, in Sault Ste Marie; that it would fund massive new programs for care in the community of those with mental

illnesses, and that it would redevelop the North Bay Psychiatric Hospital.

At last word, I am told that the reason the North Bay joint hospital is not going ahead is that even though this government told the people there to incorporate the redeveloped psychiatric hospital in their plans, now the minister says: "No, it is not a priority. We are not proceeding with the psychiatric hospital. The number one priority is in Penetanguishene;" which I understand, but what that message is saying to the people of northeastern Ontario is: "No. We are going back on the commitment the former government made and we reconfirmed. We are not going to proceed with that commitment."

The second thing it means, if any members are interested, is that because the commitment for the psychiatric hospital in North Bay is for after the new hospital is built, it would come about six years from today if it was announced today. That is when the commitment to the psychiatric hospital is. It means that the minister is saying there is not one single capital dollar for psychiatric health in this province for six years. That is what the government has told the people of northeastern Ontario and that is what it has told the people of North Bay.

I want to try to conclude shortly but I want to talk a little bit about control of expenditure. I have said it in this House on a number of occasions and people say: "What about the grants to North Bay industries? What about the grants in Nipissing? What about the grants in northern Ontario?" If in this economy a business cannot make it without a grant, it will never make it. If the government has to give industry grants to build in this economy, what is it going to do when there is a recession?

There is something wrong. When I said that programs should be reviewed, I meant that programs should be reviewed. I said in this House and I will repeat today that there are industries in my riding in North Bay that have got Northern Ontario Development Corp. grants or northern Ontario regional development program grants that were going ahead anyway. They do not need them. They are like my father. They say: "If they're going to give it to me, I'll take it. I think it's a joke. I think it's embarrassing, because I know they're giving it away to everybody else who doesn't need it too, and I have to take it just to keep even."

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Who initiated that?

Mr. Harris: I will tell members, the Nordev program is one of the best programs that was initiated during a recession—it started during a

recession—for northern Ontario, and I am saying they should be reviewing some of those programs. When I ask are they prepared to review some of them—well, I do not know; I mean, what more do they want me to do? I am telling them that in my own riding they are wasting money, and I am saying it is fair game to review all those programs.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That is because you went from here to there, that's all. You keep doing it. You only changed spots.

Mr. Harris: The other thing that bothers people is the attitude that it creates.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Nipissing will please continue.

Mr. Harris: It creates an attitude among business, among people, when you throw money at them that they do not need. They say: "Well, why should we care? Why should we try to help the government control expenses? They're going to throw it all away anyway." They are going to take a look at the budget and they are going to say: "What did you spend last year, \$3 billion? Oh, I guess it's \$3 billion plus another nine per cent this year."

That attitude corrupts. It has corrupted every one of the caucus members over there. It has corrupted the Treasurer, because the Treasurer, as members will know, is saying substantially different things than he did a number of years ago.

Those are some of the things we are talking about.

I have some sympathy for the New Democratic Party when it talked about \$100 million to remove those below the poverty line. I am the first to acknowledge that the poverty line depends on who uses it, who says it, where you live and what not, but I tell members, there is more than enough waste in this government to find \$100 million without increasing taxes. The Treasurer could have taken the 8.2 per cent without any tax increases. That is about \$2.6 billion. He could have found \$100 million to do that.

But that was not the object of this budget. The object of this budget was to keep government big. Make people dependent on government and you can hand out more cheques. They can call on you more often. You can buy more votes. It is a philosophy, it is an attitude that I do not agree with and my party does not agree with it, and that is why I am speaking out against that attitude.

I mentioned a few other things that I want to take a look at. Let us look at pages 68 and 69 of the budget. I do not want to get into specifics. Members can all say, "Oh, Harris, what program are you going to cut?" I have told the government a few it could cut.

But does it make sense to you that, with interest rates five or six years ago, interest rates of 22 per cent and businesses going bankrupt, the economy really in a recession, driven there by Trudeau and by free-spending Liberals over a period of years in Ottawa; when you look at the pie chart, social service spending from that year to now, when unemployment in Toronto is virtually zero—I assume it is zero; the Premier cancelled the job program for students, or cut it back, because he said we do not need it; you see signs all over, "Help Wanted"—does it really makes sense, as times get really good in employment and everybody is working, or most people are working, that welfare should be going up so substantially? I do not think people understand that.

Does it make sense when the Treasurer says: "Well, we're not the worst. Somebody has a tax somewhere in this category higher than ours. Half of them are higher in this category, sales taxes." Which provinces are they? The Atlantic provinces? Is that what he is saying? Is he saying that Ontario's economy is similar to Nova Scotia's or to Newfoundland's? Is that what he is trying to sell us? Look at the western provinces. Is Ontario's worse than their economies?

1730

During these booming times—and nowhere has boomed more than Ontario, we all know that—many provinces have significant budgetary surpluses to put money away for a rainy day. My friend the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) pointed out that cumulatively, when you look at it all together, we are first, or last, however you want to look at it. We were tied, I think he said, with Newfoundland. Now we are obviously ahead of Newfoundland.

With all the infrastructure in Ontario, with all the economies of scale we should have, with all the wealth and with all the employment, the Treasurer says: "Look at Newfoundland: 20 per cent unemployment. Gee, they tax the same as we do."

I think it is a disgrace. I think that attitude is wrong. I was intrigued this morning when I was on Metro Morning. The member for Oshawa talked about housing problems, how misdirected many of the government programs are. He was talking about speculation in the housing market

and the land market. The government of Ontario sold a 40-foot lot in Malvern for \$160,000. Those guys are the speculators. They are right in there. How do they expect anybody else—"That's fair game. That's what you gotta try and do." That is the example they set.

They threw money into housing. They took a rent control program that was costing \$4 million a year. The backlog was six months, or three months I think at that time. They doubled it to \$6 million and the backlog went to 12 months. Then they doubled it to \$24 million and the backlog went to a year and a half. They have not doubled it this time, but they are going to throw some more money at it. If they would look at the value they got for money which they have dumped in there and wasted, surely they would think throwing more money at it is not going to be beneficial.

I think I have talked at some length. I know there are others in my party and on all sides of the House who want to talk about this budget. We are very disappointed in the direction this province is going at the time of an economic boom. I remind people that it is "keep government big." That is the way Trudeau put his lock on Ottawa for a period of time. When the economy was good, he taxed it heavily. He got locked into programs. When the economy finally went down, he had done one of two things: he had either taxed for them, or if he could not tax for them he borrowed. The interest payments in Ottawa during that period went from 10 cents to 30 cents of every dollar. That is the problem this country is in.

We see the signs of that right here in Ontario; the same type. Take a look, folks, at budgets. Go back to when he first came in and take a look at them. We see the same thing happening here. If that is Liberal policy, I think some members should rethink whether they want to be Liberals.

In view of some of the comments I have made, I would like to move an amendment, as well, to the motion.

The Acting Speaker: Mr. Harris moves that the amendment to the motion be amended by striking out all the words after "That" and that the following be added:

"This House, noting that six years of sustained economic growth in the province has significantly increased government revenues and has generated substantial in-year revenue windfalls, rejects as unnecessary and unjustified the massive, inflationary and regressive tax increases proposed by the government.

"This House regrets that the government of Ontario, by increasing its personal income tax, its retail sales tax, its gasoline tax and other consumption taxes, will deprive the Ontario taxpayer of the full benefits of federal tax reform and has significantly increased the tax burden on the middle class.

"This House deplores the fact that, after a six-year period in which real economic growth in the province has averaged 5.5 per cent, the government has not been able to achieve a more substantial reduction in its budgetary deficit and continues to add to the province's debt, two factors which will limit the ability of the province to respond to any economic downturn in a flexible and fiscally responsible manner.

"This House condemns the government for its inability to control its expenditures and particularly for its lack of action to control the costs of the province's health care system.

"This House, noting that this government has increased expenditures by 42.8 per cent since taking office, believes that the failure of the government to effectively address the problems in housing, health care, post-secondary institutions and the education system is due to inadequate and ineffective management of its expenditures and expresses its dissatisfaction with the government's intention of making the taxpayer pay for its own management deficiencies."

On motion by Mr. Reycraft, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. R. F. Nixon: In the absence of the House leader, I have been asked to announce that tomorrow the first order will be second reading of Bill 115, the Toronto Economic Summit Construction Act, to be followed by a continuation of this debate.

The House adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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|--|--|
| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p>Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
 Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrondola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)</p> |
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- Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 53

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Wednesday, April 27, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, April 27, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Wiseman: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: May I ask the Speaker when he is doing the Lord's Prayer to say it a little slower? It is awfully hard for us to catch up.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you for your advice.

Mr. Swart: On that point of order, Mr. Speaker: Maybe because he does not know it well enough, he stumbles on it.

Mr. Speaker: We will now commence with routine proceedings.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

COLLEGES OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Swart: What the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) said yesterday and the day before about funding of Ontario's college system has an ominous ring. Three quarters of the colleges are facing deficits. It is clear from the minister's statement that the only way they can halt them is by cutting programs, which will cut student seats and accessibility. Community colleges in the slow-growth areas—members can rename them depressed areas—are, more than the others, being forced to retrench because of her funding system.

As I pointed out in questions yesterday, Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology is a classic example of this wrong-headed minister's system. In an area of high unemployment, it worsens the situation. Niagara College immediately loses 28 staff jobs this year. With the same formula the total will be over 100 next year. But the overall job losses are much worse than that. The courses to be shut down are ones in which there are real demands for graduates: theatre arts technicians, hygienists and bilingual secretaries. Most of the others are grabbed up by the employment market as soon as they graduate, but there will not be any graduates any more if the minister has her way.

In addition, the cutbacks are counterproductive: cutbacks, then fewer students and fewer courses; fewer students and fewer courses, less funding and more cutbacks. It is a vicious cycle

and a stupid policy from every point of view. I call on the minister to revise her funding formula and keep the colleges alive, viable and growing in the slow-growth areas.

The Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Swart: Those are the areas which need it most.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Sterling: Today our staff asked the Ministry of Education for a complete list of capital allocations to school boards across this province, which the minister announced one at a time yesterday. We were told by the staff that they had to get permission from the minister's office. When our staff phoned the minister's office, one of the minister's many assistants informed us that no such list existed and it would take the ministry staff two or three days to compile such a list.

I have never heard such a bunch of utter nonsense and bunk in my life. Does the minister seriously expect me or the public of Ontario to believe that his ministry would allocate \$504 million worth of capital projects and not keep a list of them? I remind the minister that he is not throwing around his money; he is throwing around the money of the taxpayers of this province. That money belongs to them, and they have a right to know how this government is spending that money, right down to the last cent.

I suggest that the minister go over this basic fact of our democratic way of life. Today I am requesting that information under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. That is the only way we can get information from this government. They are so closed, and it makes me so angry, that I am going to continue to raise this subject on a number of occasions.

MANITOBA ELECTION

Ms. Poole: Last night I had the pleasure of speaking by telephone to the newly elected member for the Winnipeg riding of Radisson, Manitoba. With the help of a small band of volunteers from my riding in Toronto, who went out to Winnipeg for the last week of the election, a supposedly unwinnable riding was turned into a

Liberal victory. When one adds a small band of valiant volunteers from Eglinton to a small band of volunteers from Radisson, there can be nothing else but victory.

As a result of that co-operation, the new MLA for the riding of Radisson in Manitoba, Al Patterson, has suggested the twinning of our two ridings of Radisson and Eglinton. Therefore, I am delighted to formally announce in the House today the linking of Radisson and Eglinton. It gives me the greatest pleasure to offer congratulations to Sharon Carstairs, Al Patterson and all Liberals in Manitoba on their magnificent showing in the election last night.

USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. Reville: I was browsing through the letters section of the Toronto Star the other day and a headline caught my eye. This is what it said: "Blame Users for the Mess in Health Care." I settled down to read a letter from the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), but no, it was a letter from a Dr. Howard Bargman in Scarborough, who wrote that a very significant number of prescription drugs are dispensed to patients because of their perception that they need medicine in order to get better.

The patient, clearly dominant in the doctor-patient relationship, refuses to take no for an answer. Consider the fix this poor doctor is in. He says patients will shop around until they find a doctor who will submit to their wishes. This is incredible. Here we have a doctor who says he prescribes drugs that patients do not need so that he will not make them angry and lose them to another doctor.

Almost as an afterthought the doctor notes that a certain number will end up with unnecessary drug reactions, thus further utilizing the medical system. The question is, how should we feel about giving the keys to the health care system to such timid souls as these?

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Sterling: Yesterday I attempted to indicate to the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) the seriousness of capital underfunding at the Carleton Board of Education in eastern Ontario. He fails to comprehend the crisis we are in. In this year's budget, Metro Toronto and Ottawa-Carleton were again selected as high-growth areas requiring particular attention. Fine, but how does he translate this into actual dollars?

Yesterday the Carleton Board of Education was awarded \$4.8 million in grant dollars. It requested \$51 million. In comparison, the other

three high-growth boards received as follows: Dufferin-Peel, \$12 million; Durham, \$11 million; and York, \$40 million. That is \$40 million compared to \$4 million. What is the inequity here? It is self-obvious. There is a bunch of Liberals elected from Toronto and Toronto area and they do not care a damn about eastern Ontario.

The Carleton Board of Education received \$3.1 million in actual grants. How is a growth area to deal with growth if we are consistently underfunded in our area? Our Carleton separate boards, while receiving more grant dollars, actually fared no better in comparison. They received \$19 million in grant dollars compared to Dufferin-Peel, \$60 million; Durham, \$26 million; and York, \$43 million.

1340

CARASSAUGA

Mr. Offer: I want to inform the members of the Legislature of an event taking place in Mississauga next month called Carassauga, which is a three-day event celebrating Mississauga's multicultural makeup. Many pavilions will be located throughout the city, at schools, community centres, etc., where all will be able to sample the foods, customs and dances of the many countries represented by Mississauga citizens.

We are fortunate in the city of Mississauga to have a rich multicultural mosaic of people who have chosen Mississauga to live and work and at the same time maintain their particular heritage. It is fortunate, not only for Mississauga but also for the rest of the province. As a society where all people work, share, co-operate and understand each other, we all benefit and become much stronger for it.

Today, in the west public gallery, we have the chairman of Carassauga, Jack Almeida, and the public relations director, Nakul Jerath, as well as other officials representing the Carassauga event. The theme for Carassauga is "Come Meet the World." I invite all members to share in this celebration throughout Mississauga on May 13, 14 and 15.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I am pleased to rise today to discuss this government's ongoing commitment to post-secondary education in Ontario. The budget statement released last week by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) continues

improvements to funding for our colleges and universities.

The Treasurer has made available, through his budget, \$88 million to allow more students to attend Ontario universities. This amount provides funding for the enrolment increases that took place last year, and it provides funding to recognize enrolment growth that is expected in 1988-89. This funding is more than double what was allocated to support accessibility to university programs in 1987-88.

It is significant as well that this budget recognizes that the increasing enrolment in universities is not likely a temporary phenomenon. A commitment has been made to provide measures to accommodate new levels of enrolment on a more permanent basis.

This government has also made an unprecedented commitment to provide \$440 million in capital funding for colleges and universities over the next four years. This commitment will allow for the continuation of the ministry's regular college and university capital programs. It also includes \$40 million to assist universities to rent or buy temporary facilities to house classrooms, faculty offices, teaching laboratories and library and study space. As well, universities will be able to use the fund to alter or convert existing classrooms and labs and to equip the temporary or altered facilities.

The new capital allocation also includes \$5 million for the first year of a program to encourage construction of more university student residences. This government has committed \$65 million to provide an additional 5,000 beds across Ontario.

This is just the latest in a series of initiatives taken by this government in the area of post-secondary education since 1985. Operating grants for universities have increased by 25 per cent and college operating grants have gone up by 36 per cent since that time. Funding for the Ontario student awards program has increased by an unprecedented 34 per cent as we both improve the program of student assistance and maintain these programs for the increased number of students.

This government has made a commitment to Ontario students. We are working to ensure that post-secondary education is accessible to those who want to learn at any age and that our colleges and universities continue to offer excellence and relevance in education. The Treasurer's budget helps us to meet that commitment.

RESPONSES

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to respond to the minister's statement and perhaps counter it with a few of the facts about what is happening to the university system.

Yesterday I showed, I think rather dramatically, what is happening in our library system. There is a lack of resources to protect that valuable resource at places like the University of Toronto. Other libraries around the province have cut back their acquisitions, as the minister well knows. The development of periodicals and literature, which are an important base to the whole academic life, is being eroded in this province because of the lack of funding from that minister.

The minister knows as well about the college deficits that the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke), the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) and I have raised in this House and about the problems that are going to be there in terms of accessibility for students this fall unless this government acts. There is nothing in this statement today to say that the minister recognizes those problems and is going to act to make sure there is an expanded level of programs available in our community colleges, not a reduction.

The minister talks at length about the kind of money that is made available this year to the university sector, but I think it is wise to put this into perspective. I would like to quote from a circular from the Council of Ontario Universities put out by Professor Arthurs, president of York University in Ontario, in which he says: "In June of 1987, the government acknowledged that universities could not accept additional students unless they received full-cost funding. Now, a year later, the system is more crowded than ever. The need for full-cost funding is stronger than ever, but the government has apparently provided full funding for only about half of the increase in applications."

What Professor Arthurs is saying is that this government is practically stepping back from its commitment to full accessibility to universities by not providing the money the universities require in order to guarantee full accessibility to all those students who are eligible for it.

I think there is a danger, and the government should know this, of a revolt among our universities through the accessibility proposal that it put forward, because it does not guarantee the full costs but only half the costs. People like

Professor Connell, president of the University of Toronto, are basically saying that there is no way that university can be fully accessible this year unless the government makes a commitment to full funding.

I would like to quote from a letter he has sent to Paul Fox, chairman of the Ontario Council on University Affairs, in which he says: "The university should seek a commitment from the government that, as long as the OSIS policy remains in place, the base funding of the universities will rise each year by a factor which will enable them to maintain existing levels of service according to the standards of assessment established by the Ontario Council on University Affairs."

Clearly, the government has not done that and the government has said that it does not care about the erosion of base funding of the universities by approximately \$60 million this year alone. The need for new teachers, in the face of a probable growth in the university system of 20 per cent in the next number of years, the need for 1,500 new teachers at this point, and no money for that in this budget at all, is leaving them in a position where, like the 1960s, we are going to be importing, in a crisis situation in two or three years' time, professors from California and other places in the United States because we will not have developed that base of teaching expertise here in Ontario as we should be doing.

The government knows that. The government has turned a blind eye to the request by the faculty associations across Ontario, which said we are in a very dangerous situation now, with many professors reaching retirement age, with no new entry programs in terms of new professors and an expanding need which this government has refused to recognize.

The people of Ontario should not be fooled by the kinds of pronouncements that are made today by the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod). This Liberal reform government has stepped back from its real commitment to the universities of this province and is, therefore, taking a step back from a commitment to the future of this province.

Mr. Jackson: I, too, wish to respond to the nonstatement by the Minister of Colleges and Universities in this House. There is absolutely nothing in this statement that was not already referred to in the statement of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) last week and we all know how well that went over. Without quoting all of the various groups in post-secondary education that have condemned the government's approach to fund-

ing post-secondary education, I wish to highlight a couple of points.

In fact, her \$400 million on base capital means she has flat-lined capital for the next four years. Each successive year, they will be receiving fewer and fewer dollars in terms of her commitment. Yet she stylized that and tried to manage the optics that, in fact, this constitutes a major commitment over four years.

Let us look at the \$65 million for university residences. It is actually going to be \$5 million each year over the next 15 years. The \$88 million on accessibility is not going to flow this year, as the minister implies. It is not going to flow until next year. Universities are not going to get that money, and yet the pressure on enrolments is occurring now for September of this year. In fact, what the minister's statement does not say is that they are only going to get \$38 million in this budget for that accessibility.

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The Council of Ontario Universities, the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations and the Ontario Federation of Students have all told the minister that this year one in 10 qualified applicants to post-secondary university education institutions in this province will be turned down. In response to questions we raised in the House, the minister indicated she still did not have the numbers. We have numbers from last year.

We asked the Premier (Mr. Peterson) this question last year. It was asked by the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves). We said we speculated that there would be 2,400 or 2,500 students denied post-secondary education. The Premier gave his solemn promise and guarantee in this House that every single student would be guaranteed a position. There was a minor event in Ontario politics, called an election, in the interim, but we have now found out that the government has an entirely different approach in these matters.

The Premier no longer talks about a guarantee. The minister is talking about maximum numbers that universities would be governed by. The Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) says if you cannot get into a university you can always go to a community college. The fact of the matter is that 5,500 students qualified to be in post-secondary institutions are probably not going to be able to get into them as a result of the budget of this Treasurer.

It is unusual, but in Ontario we have pretty strict standards in our universities. If students plagiarize an essay and plagiarize words, they

put their year at risk; they could be removed. Why then can she, as a minister, inflate these numbers and stylize them in such a way that it is not an accurate reflection of the reality of funding in this province? Why should she not be subjected to the same standard as Ontario students are in terms of the significance of those numbers?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: What kind of ridiculous allegation is that?

Mr. Jackson: It is not as ridiculous as the Treasurer indicates. The Treasurer is ashamed of his budget. It is unfortunate that he has not seen fit to honour the commitment to post-secondary education. It was never mentioned in the accord document that brought this Premier to power, and it is a shame that three years later we still are not seeing evidence that the university students of this province are a sufficient priority for this government.

Mr. Harris: I am really shocked that the minister had enough nerve to want to remind us today what has really happened. She says there is 25 per cent more for universities. In the same period, government spending is up 42 per cent, so universities do not have the same priority as this government's spending on itself. Thirty-six per cent for colleges. At the same time, overall government spending has gone up 42 per cent.

It promised fully accessible health care; now it is writing letters to the hospitals, saying, "You have to cut back to balance your budgets whether you're operating efficiently or not." The government promised accessible spaces in community colleges. Now it is saying, "We can't deliver." It has to be one or the other. Why does it not be honest—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

ORAL QUESTIONS

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. B. Rae: I have some questions for the Premier about an issue that I think the Premier will agree is one of the most difficult that all of us in this House have had to face over the last few years. That, of course, is the question of the funding for public education, particularly in light of the decision that was made by this House by all three parties that we would proceed to fund the separate school system up until grade 13.

A very confusing series of announcements yesterday—press releases that were basically dumped by the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) in the press gallery and sifted through by various

people, never really announced systematically in this House with respect to how funds were to be allocated—told that, for example, the Ontario government has allocated funds which will generate capital projects valued at approximately \$50 million in Durham, \$14.7 million for the Durham Board of Education and \$35.5 million for the separate board of education, which is far more than the government itself is in fact spending. In the announcements that were made, 68 per cent of the grants went to the separate school board and just a little over 32 per cent went to public boards.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: I am sure the Premier is aware of the sentiment which I think it is fair to say is widely felt among many public school supporters that there is a concern with respect to the funding for public schools even among those who are now recognizing the reality and supporting the concept of Bill 30.

I would like to ask the Premier: does he not feel there is at least concern among supporters of public education as to the adequacy of the support for many boards at a time when they have put in for considerable sums of money and in fact those requests have been rejected by the government?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not think the member can say those requests have been rejected. The first tranche has been announced, a very major program involving school capital of \$1.3 billion over the next three years, which is a long-term commitment, as my honourable friend knows, not the traditional approach of doing it year by year. My honourable friend will recognize that is about four or five times per year what was being spent two or three years ago. I think my honourable friend recognized that.

Our responsibility obviously is to respond on the basis of need, prioritized for the children of this province on the basis of need, irrespective of whether it is the Catholic or the public system. We believe in both, and I know my honourable friend, who supported Bill 30, as did virtually all members of this House, would recognize that our priority is quality education for every single kid.

The member can argue and others will argue, in this area as in other areas, that not enough money has been spent, and that is a fair charge, I guess, just as others will argue that taxes were raised too much to pay for the needs other people would like to identify, depending on their own priorities. This is a massive capital program, and we think it has been objectively organized on the

basis of the real need of real children, regardless of which system they are in.

Mr. B. Rae: I say to the Premier with all respect that the dilemma he is placing a great many public boards in is that they have needs. They have needs for new students and for new spaces. They have needs in terms of renovations which are going to be put on hold. They have needs in terms of programs which are going to be cut.

If you take the Ottawa Board of Education, for example, \$28 million in the Ottawa area went to the Catholic system; no dollars went to the public system. As a result of that announcement, with respect to what was said yesterday, one of the trustees said, "The Ottawa board is one of the best boards in the country, but with no funding to expand or maintain the present quality of its schools and programs, its educational integrity is seriously in jeopardy."

The dilemma that we have, and I say this as one who has consistently supported Bill 30, at some cost from time to time, is that the message this government is sending out to the public school systems is that they have a lower priority now that Bill 30 is in place, and that is the wrong message to be sending out.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if the Premier would not agree that in making the decisions the government has made in the way it has made them, in making the decisions it has made with respect to statements which I might say are so exaggerated in terms of what it appears to be promising school boards that in fact—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I appreciate the question from my honourable friend, and I recognize, as he says, that he has supported the principle of full funding and even feels it was at some price, or that there is some cost he has paid. I say to my honourable friend, there is never a cost or a price when you support a matter of principle, as we did, all of us, in this House. My honourable friend has supported that, and I would not want him, as I am sure he would not want to himself, unwittingly to create the impression there is some kind of bias or distortion in this system. It was a legitimate inventory of need based on where the most pressures are, and that is the decision that was made.

My honourable friend says to me we should spend more on education. I say I would like to spend more on education and in many other areas as well. The member and I both know the finite

capacity of government to respond to every need, but I say to my honourable friend, if there is any suggestion of bias one way or the other based on this difficult debate that this province has had, then I am sure he would want to disabuse anybody of the view that he is tilting one way or the other in that regard.

Mr. B. Rae: I say to the Premier that he is in command of the decision-making process. No one on this side has any access to how those decisions are made. We have no idea how the decisions are made. As far as we are concerned, the decisions are made by his government, they are made by his ministry, and he is responsible for them. He should not try to share the blame with the rest of the House in terms of how he makes his decisions, how much money he decides to allocate, how much money the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) decides to allocate or how it is done. That is his responsibility, and that is something he is going to have to live with. The question I have—

Hon. Mr. Scott: Are you trying to turn this into a religious issue?

Mr. B. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has said to me that I am turning this into a religious issue, and I want to respond very directly to that because it is a heckle of such importance.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Question.

Mr. B. Rae: I want to respond to that heckle by saying it is precisely because I do not want to turn it into a religious issue that I am asking the government—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I did not hear a question. Was there one?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do you have a question, a supplementary?

Mr. B. Rae: I do have a question. Does the Premier not realize that precisely the emotions which the Attorney General has referred to—and I have known the Attorney General long enough to hope that he would realize that the stirring up of religious prejudice is something that I went into politics to prevent and not something I went into politics to start.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: Does the Premier not realize that, in making the decisions the way he has made them, in not facing up to the full cost of Bill 30 as it affects the public school system and as it affects the separate school system, in fact he is putting

more pressure on local boards without giving them the assistance and, in fact, the money they need in order to assuage local feelings, which were very powerful, with respect to the proper funding for public education?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I can only repeat. The honourable member feels we should spend more on education, and he is certainly entitled to make that point, in spite of the fact that, by any reasonable standard he would want to use, it is the greatest allocation in recent history responding to the real needs. I think the Attorney General—and I cannot speak for him—may have been disappointed that a member whom he has known for a long time, respected, and indeed as I understand it taught, would become part of a debate that I am sure he has assiduously avoided in the past.

I say to my honourable friend that he is welcome at any time to look at the allocations process and how those decisions were made about which school. It will be thoroughly discussed in estimates, I am sure. There are absolutely no secrets about that, why it went to one board as opposed to another, and I would invite the member and the critics to sit down with the Minister of Education and go through all those judgements in detail. If the member would like to challenge those judgements, to say they should have gone one place rather than to another, he is entitled to do that, but let us not turn the clock backwards.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to go back to the Premier on the same matter.

Interjections

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Premier on the same matter. We all here are dealing with perceptions as well as with realities. I think the concern we have is that the difficulty is that his government has decided it will not intervene to assist on the Bill 30 transfer questions, and yet it comes forward with its capital allocations in the way it has today.

In terms of perceptions, would the Premier not agree that the representatives of the Renfrew County Board of Education—which received no money at all, even though it had asked for \$2.8 million—whom we talked to today are surprised that it got nothing when the Catholic board in Pembroke got \$6 million? Does the Premier not understand that this kind of perspective, at a time when there is a major controversy in Pembroke around this issue, is problematic? All we are asking the Premier is why is he not taking some

steps to indicate that he is looking at this in a way which gives the perception of equality as well as meeting the real needs he and others have talked about?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I regret very much what I am hearing from my two friends opposite, I really do. But I say to them, as frankly as I can, I was not aware of the facts, but my colleague to the left, who represents that area, tells me that the public board got substantially more than the separate board last year. That is what my friend tells me, and he was then Minister of Education. I think what the member would want to do when he raises these provocative questions is put them completely in perspective in that regard.

I say one other thing to my honourable friend: yes, there are perceptions constantly about the member, myself, this process and the things we do. There is also a reality, and we are called upon to deal on the basis of reality, as is the member, and not pander to misguided perceptions.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My argument about perceptions was just made by the Premier for me. Yes, there was a difference in allocation last year. The separate school board got \$400,000 and the public board got \$1.2 million. That is quite a difference from \$6 million to zero this year, in terms of perceptions.

Can the Premier explain to me, with all the problems we have had in Hamilton, when we know there is growth in Hamilton-Wentworth, why it is there has been no money put into the Hamilton-Wentworth public board to help that board feel that it is not the total loser through Bill 30?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not familiar with the particulars of the Pembroke board. My honourable friend is, and he informed me that it was there to address specific needs in that community. I think the point has been made by this government and I am frankly disappointed with the point I think the member is trying to make.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not understand. I am trying to get the Premier to understand that there are parts of this province presently going through major problems around Bill 30 which need some assistance in overcoming those problems at a local level. Instead of dealing with that in this capital allocation, the government has given, it seems, a little more than two thirds of the money to one of the systems; and the public system, which is already feeling that it is in jeopardy in some of these communities—and I look at Metro

Toronto or Hamilton or Pembroke—does not have anything to look at in these allocations which would make it feel better about things.

Is the Premier going to come forward with some money around the Bill 30 transfers in addition to this, or is this all that there is? And if that is the case, does he not feel again that the perceptions that are going to be made out there are incorrect?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say to my honourable friend that a lot of these expenditures were made around Bill 30 and the effects that had on enrolment and where young children chose to enjoy their schooling. Surely the member understands that. This is a massive allocation. Our job is to respond to those kids. Maybe what the member does not understand is that if there is a school built in a particular area, it obviously takes pressures off other discussions with respect to transfers. Surely my honourable friend understands that.

The bottom line in all of this is that kids are kids. Regardless of the system, it is our responsibility to respond to where they are, and I think we are doing that.

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. Brandt: My question as well is to the Premier; it is with respect to some meetings the Premier has held recently. At the end of last month, the Premier met with Premier Bourassa and had some discussions that were, in part, covered in this House. More recently, within the last week, he has met with Premier McKenna of New Brunswick in connection with interprovincial relations and some matters obviously of importance to both our provinces and the country as well.

I do not expect the Premier would disclose any confidential elements within those discussions that took place, but I think that since the cost of those meetings was borne at least in part by the taxpayers of our respective provinces, the matter is of some public interest as it relates to the Meech Lake accord. I would like to ask the Premier if those subjects were discussed—and I am asking only for a general response—with the two premiers in question.

1410

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer is yes, and among many other items, I should add to my honourable friend.

Mr. Brandt: I appreciate that response and I expected that that would be the case.

Given that Premier Bourassa has taken a very firm position relative to the Meech Lake accord, in that he is not prepared to entertain, as I understand it, any amendments; and given that Premier McKenna has indicated some concerns about the accord as it relates to the position of his province, can the Premier indicate whether or not there was any suggestion given to either of those premiers relative to Ontario's position on any proposed amendments that may come forward as a result of the committee discussions that are under way here in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I did not quite understand the question—whether there are any special deals? Can the member just rephrase it? I am sorry.

Mr. Brandt: This is part of my first supplementary. Has the Premier made any agreement with other premiers relative to amendments that may come forward from Ontario as a result of the committee activities that are going on in this province now? In other words, since those other two premiers have taken different positions on the Meech Lake accord, what is Ontario saying to those two premiers with respect to our position? How flexible is the Premier relative to that accord?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The positions of Quebec and New Brunswick, as my honourable friend is quite well aware, are quite different on this matter. Mr. Bourassa has publicly and privately taken the position that that is it. He would say, I think, that people have been asking for years what Quebec wanted, and that is what they wanted—this particular set of conditions debated through *Maîtres de l'avenir*, through a Quebec election, about the Quebec bottom-line position on constitutional reform. I am uncomfortable speaking for him, but I think that is his position.

Mr. McKenna, who was not a party to the Meech Lake discussion, has quite a different view of the situation. He has a number of amendments he would like to see instituted, and he says that is his position. I say to my honourable friend Ontario has not put forward any, shall we say, brokerage proposals. In a sense, there is a very serious difference of position.

I do not have the magic solution to break that particular deadlock, if that is the case. My honourable friend obviously will look with interest as well at what has happened in Manitoba yesterday and ask himself the question, how will that play on the great national issue as well, because some people have indicated they want to

look at certain amendments. So I am not in a position to predict how that will turn out.

We do know we need unanimity on Meech Lake. If all 10 provinces are not on board, it is not going to happen. My position has been, and I say to my honourable friend, that we want full, frank hearings. In the not-too-distant future, presumably, we will get the advice of the committee in this regard, not only on Meech Lake but on further constitutional approaches which are institutionalized in that document. But I do not have any sort of magic breakthrough proposals. It is going to take the couple of years left as this thing, shall we say, is debated and mooted across our country. I cannot at the moment—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: I share with the Premier the need for finding some degree of unanimity among the provinces on this matter, and we would like, as an opposition, to play a helpful role in it. But I recognize that the results of the Manitoba election have now left us with at least two of those three parties indicating they are going to put forward amendments to the Meech Lake accord. Mr. McKenna has indicated that he as well is in a position where he will offer some amendments to the accord.

I ask the Premier very directly and in the spirit of trying to come to grips with a very complicated problem, is he prepared to accept realistic, helpful, constructive amendments from the committee sitting here in this province that may be brought forward for his government's consideration to offer as part of the solution that we feel is necessary to bind this agreement in such a way as hopefully to bring in the other provinces as well that have indicated some concerns about the wording of the present document?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me say I appreciate my honourable friend's question, and I think it is a constructive one. This is a difficult debate right across this country, and it is not, as my honourable friend will recognize, a partisan debate. All parties across this country have different points of view. Our party does.

Mr. Brandt: Ask John Turner.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the member's party has some of the same problems and, obviously, the NDP does as well. I respect this. This is as it should be and is, shall we say, a wholesome national debate.

My honourable friend is asking me about my own view and what kind of advice I would be prepared to accept. Obviously, I will look very seriously at any advice we get on this matter, but

I say to my honourable friend that my assessment at this moment is that Quebec is not prepared to open up the agreement. I think one would have to ask oneself the question—albeit, it could be perfected; I do not deny that for a minute; I have never argued that it is a perfect document—would other provinces accept amendments? Would Quebec accept amendments? Would Alberta accept amendments?

Some have said out west that if certain things are opened up, that opens other things with respect to the future agenda on constitutional reform. I think one of the things we are going to have to decide in the Meech Lake discussion is not only to discuss the document, with all of its imperfections, but also to discuss the question, "What are the results of undoing that and is something else doable?" That argument is, I think, part of the general argument that we will all have to be engaged in when, ultimately, decisions will have to be made, and we have to try to have some understanding of the reaction of other provinces at the same time.

Some would like to kill the whole deal—dead, functus. Others would like certain amendments. Others would like to add on to that agenda and have more things included in Meech Lake, as my honourable friend knows. All those things have to be taken into account when this most critical judgement is made. I am one of those who believes passionately it is in the interest of this country to have Quebec part of this land.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Solicitor General. Yesterday the Solicitor General met with representatives from the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres and she informed them that there were no extra provincial funds for rape crisis centres. The minister does not need additional money from the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon). As we said in the House yesterday, the minister needs to properly manage the dollars she already has. Out of her budget of \$427 million, we illustrated to her five examples totalling almost \$2 million of mismanagement of funds within her ministry.

The government is about to spend \$600,000 on an advertising campaign for rape crisis centres, and yet two of these centres are at risk of closing before the campaign even begins by the end of May. Is not the Solicitor General's reluctance to adequately fund rape crisis centres in Ontario an admission she is not able to properly manage her budget?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The member for Burlington South is not able to manage his questions in so far as getting his information straight. The member for Burlington South managed, inadvertently, I am sure, to misinform the House on many matters yesterday, on which he left people badly misinformed. I would like to set some of them straight.

I am sure the members will be very happy to hear that the \$31,000-shopping spree to which the member referred was for oil and gas for the Ontario Provincial Police in the north, for their snowmobiles, boats and so on.

The member will be happy to know that he has incorrectly accused the former minister of buying \$100,000 worth of furniture, when he bought not one stick, as I have bought not one stick.

I invite the member for a tour of my office and my parliamentary assistant's office. I am sure he will be delighted to look for any new furniture he can find and report appropriately to the House. He will meet, at the same time, my staff, who are under the amount allotted by 25 per cent. If he can find a second executive assistant, I would be delighted if he would introduce that person to me, because I have not met him yet.

1420

Mr. Jackson: Yesterday it was brought to the Solicitor General's attention that the Oshawa and Kenora centres need \$5,000 each in order for them to remain open during the course of the campaign. Let me then suggest one other example of this government's mismanagement, which the minister may wish to respond to as well.

Last night there were two cabinet ministers' chauffeur-driven limousines parked outside of Exhibition Stadium for the Blue Jay game. One was being used by a minister; the other was not. When we called their offices today, one confirmed that one minister had been in attendance. The other said the minister was not present but could not tell me if a member of his staff, a member of his family, a Liberal back-bencher or a member of the Liberal Party was there. They could not tell who was using the government limousine last night. We do not know who was using it.

Mr. Speaker: Is that your question?

Mr. Jackson: How does the Solicitor General rationalize the fact that her government is spending taxpayers' money to drive people by chauffeur-driven limousine to Blue Jay games, but she cannot find \$5,000 for the rape crisis centres?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think there was a question there somewhere.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I must say I have difficulty finding a question there, so I will answer the question the member asked previously, which was also based on misinformation. I did meet with the people from the rape crisis coalition yesterday and told them we would find money for the two centres that were going under.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the member for Burlington South heard the response, I hope the question will come in regard to the response.

Mr. Jackson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, if you were giving direction. I am not sure what you were doing there.

Mr. Speaker: I was just informing the honourable member that if there is a response to a question—

Mr. Jackson: No, I am asking the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, perhaps you would just listen. If there is another supplementary to be asked, that supplementary should be in regard to the response to the previous question.

Mr. Jackson: The fact of the matter is that rape crisis centres are receiving as little as \$10,000 from this government to remain open and provide badly needed services for women who are the subject of violence and abuse in this province. The Liberal coterminous government in Quebec is providing funding at the rate of \$60,000 per centre to ensure that women who are the subject of abuse have that lifeline in place.

Within her budget, the Solicitor General has sufficient dollars to adequately address the staffing needs of Ontario crisis intervention centres. When will she make the necessary announcement within her budget that she will adequately fund these centres? Which is not what she told them yesterday, she indicated she would not provide the funding.

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: As I reported yesterday to the House, I had a very satisfactory meeting with the members from the coalition, and we intend to meet together again to properly plan the growth and expenditures around rape crisis services in this province. In the meantime, we will help them to more appropriately spend the money they are getting.

The majority of these crisis centres actually operate at this time strictly with volunteers, and they are using the money for the services through

those volunteers. We will work with them towards more appropriate plans, but we certainly will not take \$1 million of the taxpayers' money without any planning at all and just simply hand it over because there is a good cause. We will recognize the cause; we will plan for its service; and we will present the plan at the appropriate time, in conjunction with those centres.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Miss Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Members in the House will recognize that tomorrow, April 28, will be Worker Memorial Day in Ontario. Members will also be aware, from the resolution my leader put forward three weeks ago, that the date, April 28, is significant because it is the date when the Workers' Compensation Act passed third reading in this House in 1914. We are all also aware that ever since that date the act and the compensation system itself have been a source of controversy in this province.

But, more important, the recent statistics—

Mr. Speaker: Is the question—

Miss Martel: I am getting to them—from the WCB concerning injuries and fatalities indicate that not only is the compensation system not working but also the health and safety policies of this government are not working either.

Given the fact that there has been an increase of some 27,000 claims from 1986 to 1987 and that the number of fatalities in the same period has increased from 220—

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Miss Martel: —can the minister tell us what exactly is his ministry doing to protect workers in the workplace in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am delighted that the member for Sudbury East has mentioned Worker Memorial Day in the preamble to her question. It gives me an opportunity to advise the House that tomorrow I am going to be asking for unanimous consent to observe a moment of silence as a result of the resolution brought by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) some two and a half weeks ago.

Unfortunately, the member for Sudbury East suggested, I think regrettably, that the Workers' Compensation Board and the system are not working. Certainly, there has been over the course of the past year, I think, some increase in the number of claims. Most, if not all, of the increase in the number of claims are based on the fact that the amount of work in this province has expanded dramatically. The number of new jobs

and the extent to which people are working is a credit to the entire workforce in the province and to the economy of the province, so it would not be surprising under those circumstances to see some slight increase, regrettable as it is, in the number of claims the board is confronted with.

Miss Martel: In view of the fact of the increase, which is tremendous in my opinion, the day—tomorrow—should not be a memorial day as much as it should be a day of mourning for workers in Ontario. Quite frankly—

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Miss Martel: —every working day in this province a worker is killed on the job, and that does not include the over 6,000 people who die annually as a result of occupational diseases they contract in the workplace.

Based on those specifics and based on the fact that these statistics from the board do not include accidents or injuries that are not reported to the board—and there are hundreds of those—I want to ask the minister again, in the speech from the throne when he stated that the government promised to reintroduce legislation to strengthen workers' right to a healthy and safe workplace and also to implement the worker and community right to know legislation—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Miss Martel: —when can the workers in this province expect that legislation to come from his ministry so that we can start protecting the people in the workplace?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member for Sudbury East suggests that what we plan tomorrow, including a lowering of the flags around the province on all provincial buildings, should be called a day of mourning. Certainly, I think it would be appropriate as we reflect tomorrow to remember all those workers who have died in the workplace or have suffered injury or industrial disease.

The substance, I think, of the supplementary question was as to the timing for introduction of bills relating to reforms to the workers' compensation system and reforms in the Occupational Health and Safety Act. I can tell my friend from Sudbury East that I look forward to bringing forth those measures in the near future. We will be able to deal with those matters much more expeditiously if the experience over the next few months in this Legislature is dramatically different from the experience we have seen from her party over the last few days in this Legislature.

HOUSING SUPPLY

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. The Liberals have plans for

housing and they are going to pass the problem on to the municipalities. Right now, they are soft-selling major changes they are going to make to municipal bylaws and municipal zoning. Two nights ago, the Liberal member for Eglinton (Ms. Poole) indicated that the Minister of Housing is going to start stepping on toes. She also said that for the last six months the Minister of Housing has had bad publicity, but just wait and see what happens now.

1430

One way to get more publicity is to pass the ball over to the municipalities, and then they, rather than the minister, will have the provincial housing crisis. Will she confirm today that she is planning to force municipalities to change local bylaws to create higher density in communities?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am delighted to get another question from my critic from the Progressive Conservatives. It has been a long time. Welcome back.

It is very clear that the problems for the people in this province associated with finding housing they can afford are serious. It is also very clear that the kind of answers we are going to get are going to require a variety of groups of people working together. The provincial government has indicated our commitment in a variety of ways. One very graphic and clear way is the number of resources that we are committing to the provision of nonprofit housing units all over this province. As announced in the budget, we have \$2 billion for building nonprofit housing all over this province.

The provincial role is clear and will become clearer in all the initiatives we have taken and will take. The municipalities also have a role, and I believe it is important for us to work with the municipalities to find the best way to ensure that the people of this province get the housing they need and deserve.

Mr. Cousens: May the announcement be clear to the people of Ontario. The minister has now said yes, she is going to pass the problem of the provincial housing crisis over to the municipalities. It is no wonder that the home owners are worried: it is no wonder they are worried about the parking and it is no wonder they are worried about what is going to happen to their communities.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Cousens: While the Minister of Housing, out of one side of her mouth, is saying, "Don't worry about anything," the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins), in his planning

supplement to background, has an article that says, "There goes the neighbourhood." In it he or one of his writers says, "Housing policies should ensure that accessory apartments are not inhibited by regulations aimed at protecting property values and neighbourhood quality."

Dig that one. Out of one side of the mouth, one minister is saying, "Don't worry," while the next one is writing articles saying, "There goes the neighbourhood."

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Cousens: Will the minister admit today that she is planning to change the fabric of neighbourhoods by forcing municipalities to change local bylaws?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am truly astonished at the member opposite. He has stood up in this House numerous times to say that the people of this province need help with their housing. I agree with him and I believe it is the role of everyone who has a contribution to make to make that contribution.

However, it is extremely important to me, and this is the message I want to give, that the people of this province get housed in communities that they can be proud of, in houses and apartment buildings that they are happy to live in and that the community is happy to have there. That is the kind of housing we are going to build and have in this province.

But the kind of tone of that question is not very helpful. I would like to point out to the member opposite that York region, his own region, just recently agreed to get involved in nonprofit housing, a move that I applaud and am excited by. What I would like to know is what the member opposite is doing in his community to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I would just like to inform all members that we have some visitors in the gallery today who are used to a very quiet question period. The visitors in the Speaker's gallery are from the House of Commons and they are members of the select committee of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom on the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. They are meeting today with members of our standing committee on the Legislative Assembly and our standing committee on the Ombudsman. They are Sir Anthony Buck, MP, the chairman, Ronnie Fearn, MP, Frank Haynes,

MP and Jim Pawsey, MP. Also accompanying them is Bryan Sparrow, the consul general of Great Britain.

MASSEY COMBINES CORP.

Mr. Neumann: My question is for the Treasurer and Minister of Financial Institutions. On March 4, Massey Combines Corp. was placed into receivership, thereby ending over a century of farm equipment manufacturing in our community. Given that as recently as 1980 over 5,000 people were employed in this sector, the demise of Massey Combines, and prior to that of White Farm equipment, has had a profound impact upon our community, the workers and their families. Would the minister inform the House what this government is doing to address the adjustment issues flowing from the receivership of Massey Combines?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I appreciate the honourable member giving me notice of this question. He would be aware—

Mr. Cousens: Oho!

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not see anything the matter with that. It seems to be appropriate for an important and complex question.

You will be aware, Mr. Speaker, that Ontario has a guarantee fund that has been officially designated by the Pension Commission of Ontario so that the payments from the fund will reinforce the pensions in the future. Varsity has many contractual obligations to assist the funding of the pension plan and these are pursued. Examination of all legal documents is under way to determine whether Varsity may have other obligations to the pension plan.

I am sure the honourable member will be glad to know that the documents have been supplied to all interested parties, including the union involved. There is a wide variety of counselling programs and an adjustment committee is in place assisting job search and placement. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology is disseminating around the world information about this extremely desirable location in Brantford and in the Ontario manufacturing community.

The receiver is in the process of soliciting proposals, and government officials from both the federal and provincial governments are in contact with the receiver to provide whatever governmental assistance may be forthcoming.

Mr. Neumann: The minister knows that the vast majority of employees and pensioners affected worked for Massey-Ferguson Ltd. for many years. With the restructuring that occurred

several years ago, these workers and retirees became the responsibility of Massey Combines.

Now that this company is in receivership while Varsity continues to operate quite profitably, what is being done to ensure that Varsity lives up to its full obligation to the government, and more important to the innocent victims, the families of pensioners and workers, not all of whom have a union to represent them? Furthermore, can the minister assure this House that the insurance companies involved will live up to their obligations to pay for insured benefits for pensioners?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: All legal agreements are being examined to ensure that contractual obligations are fully lived up to. Price Waterhouse is the administrator of the pension plan and, on behalf of the beneficiaries, it is pursuing whether Varsity has any further or additional obligations. The Ministry of Labour is examining a request received from the Canadian Auto Workers that it determine whether Varsity may be under further obligation for severance pay.

With respect to life insurance and extended health care and disability benefits, the ministry is in contact with the receiver and the companies involved in administering these plans to determine obligations. However, I should say that while it was considered to be an insurance package, in fact they were paid by the now bankrupt company as a condition of employment and they are therefore not covered by the guarantee that is in place under our provincial legislation.

ONTARIO FOOD TERMINAL

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food and it refers to the Ontario Food Terminal and the status of the perpetual leases on some of the wholesale units there. It is an issue that I have raised before in this House and to which the minister has responded by saying that he is dealing with sublessees and that he is considering building new units. He has not mentioned what he is going to do about the assignment of the perpetual leases by some of the owners.

I would like to give the minister two facts and then ask him a question. The first fact is that last week the lease on one unit changed hands for \$1.15 million and this week another lessee has been asked to pay \$1,375,000 or to vacate by June, after 15 years' business in the terminal. What is the minister going to do about this demand for exorbitant key money on publicly owned property?

1440

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I, like the honourable member, am sympathetic to the plight of Mr. Vetere and other sublessees who find themselves in the same position, but the honourable member knows, with her experience on the standing committee on government agencies, that I cannot legally do anything about these perpetual leases, which were established 33 years ago when the Ontario Food Terminal Board was first established; and I might say that was back in the days of the bad old Tories.

Had I been Minister of Agriculture and Food at the time, I would not have condoned this type of thing, but the fact of the matter is that they made provisions for perpetual leases and there is nothing that I, my ministry or the food terminal board can do about those. But what I have done is give approval for new units, and I will encourage the food terminal board to consider Mr. Vetere—

Mr. Speaker: I think that is a fairly full answer. Order.

Mrs. Grier: I know it has been the position of the minister that he is powerless to act in this situation. However, I would remind him that in 1979 there was a recommendation from a committee that suggested the Ontario Food Terminal Act be amended in order to give the minister the power to do something. This minister knows he has negotiated a new memorandum of understanding between the ministry and the food terminal board which was adopted by cabinet on March 9, 1988, and which reads, "In exercising its powers, the board shall be guided by its objects and any written policy directives of the minister expressing the objectives of the province of Ontario as they relate to the area of jurisdiction of the food terminal board."

In the light of that power, will the minister order the food terminal board not to make any further assignment of the perpetual leases?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Somehow, the honourable member seems to think the Minister of Agriculture and Food should jump in and interfere with boards which have been given the authority to operate and run their own business. The honourable member knows I have asked the Ontario Food Terminal Board to review its leasing policies. I asked it to do that in 1987. The board has undertaken and has substantially completed that review and the board's solicitor is currently developing possible amendments to the Ontario Food Terminal Act and regulations to address the leasing issue.

I also have to say that the honourable member visited the food terminal board not too long ago and even she was surprised at the progress that board has made towards addressing some of the problems, the building of the new units, the plans for the new units, the fact that the solicitors are looking at ways of amending the legislation—

Mr. Speaker: A very good answer. Order.

ATHLETIC COMMISSIONER

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. A few weeks ago, the province's boxing commissioner, Clyde Gray, was suspended from his position and assigned other duties. As those of us who are boxing fans will know, Clyde Gray is highly respected in the boxing game throughout Canada and North America. He has worked tirelessly to promote the sport in Ontario and during his seven-year tenure as chairman there has not been a boxing death or serious injury. Can the minister tell the House just what it is that Clyde Gray has done wrong and when can we expect him back on the job?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The decision to move Mr. Gray to other duties was taken after seriously considering a number of allegations and a review, which is still ongoing within the branch, as to whether Mr. Gray used his discretion in an area in which, as the honourable member will know, under our regulations no discretion exists.

I am sure the honourable member and members of the House in general will have read the allegations which were in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*. Those allegations were very quickly reviewed and in most cases, I say to the House, were substantiated. Mr. Gray was then assigned to other duties and we are continuing a full audit of the commission and of the role of the commissioner and indeed the whole area of that part of the entertainment standards branch. In the meantime, Mr. Gray is familiarizing himself with other aspects of the entertainment standards branch, and a decision will be made in the near future.

Mr. Runciman: This has all the appearance of a very public firing. All the evidence we have seen suggests that rigid and inflexible regulations are the real culprit here and the minister is trying to make Clyde Gray a scapegoat for his own failure to update unworkable rules. Does the minister not agree that a major revision of the boxing rules is urgently needed?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I would be the first to join the honourable member in saying, and I do not mind saying, that Mr. Gray is a fine individual,

an honourable individual who over a number of years has worked very hard in the industry and very hard on behalf of the people of Ontario.

Regrettably, that being said, there are a number of rules which the honourable member characterizes as inflexible which I would characterize as important safety precautions in the professional boxing industry. Quite frankly, those of us on this side of the House are not willing to see a diminution of those important safety rules in the professional boxing industry. They were put in for good reason, and it is not our view that many of the rules Mr. Gray was using with a degree of flexibility that was not called for should change.

LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Dietsch: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. The minister will be aware of the difficulties in the riding of St. Catharines-Brock with respect to the Glenridge landfill site, which my colleague from the third party, the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt), when he was Minister of the Environment, put under the Environmental Protection Act with little or no concern for the residents of that area.

I have had many concerns expressed to me, such as the leachate escaping from the site, the alleged poor clay liner and the extension of the life of the site, to name a few. Will the minister outline to this House the safety precautions to ensure a safe resolution of this very important landfill question?

Mr. Speaker: Could the minister respond briefly?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I will certainly try to do so, because it is a very direct question.

It is my understanding that the city of St. Catharines, through the engineering department and through the consultant it has hired, is attempting to address any and all problems that have existed in terms of the operations of the landfill site. They have been doing some extensive studies of the site over the past year to determine the migration of the leachate and to overcome problems such as odour and problems where they feel the garbage is being placed in portions of the site where it would be better not placed.

As a result, there is going to be yet another \$1.2 million spent on remedial action by the city of St. Catharines on the recommendation of Gartner Lee, the consulting firm. It is the hope of the engineering department of the city of St. Catharines that this will serve to alleviate many

of the problems that have existed with the operation of that site over the past few years.

1450

Mr. Dietsch: Will the minister ensure the placement of the Glenridge landfill site under the Environmental Assessment Act to ensure that the highest possible safety standards for the residents of St. Catharines will be ensured in the continuation at that site or at least make it the safest possible site that can be made?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: There are two thrusts in this regard. One is the matter I have mentioned to the member already about the remedial action that will be taken and any changes in operation that are required to make it more satisfactory, particularly to the residents who are in relatively close proximity to the landfill site. The second question relates to removing the exemption the member says was granted by a previous Minister of the Environment for the site.

I have not received from the city of St. Catharines any application for changes to the site that would relate to an expansion of the site. Certainly, the 40 years that I have heard speculated about would have to be subjected to the greatest of environmental scrutiny. But I have not to this point received any application from the city of St. Catharines, so I am unable to make a ruling as to what regulatory regimen it would be under at this time.

CONVERSION OF RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Philip: I have a question to the Minister of Housing. The minister should recall that 15 weeks ago I brought to her attention the fact that 47.9 per cent of tenants living in the riding I represent are living in rental buildings that are registered as condominiums. Even though these buildings have been operated as rental buildings for many years, the tenants are now being evicted as those units are being sold as condominiums. The minister will recall that at that time she said that under the Rental Housing Protection Act she would protect those tenants.

Interjections.

Mr. Philip: Well, the government is upset that I build more units than it does in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Interjections.

Mr. Philip: I can tell members I would not rent to the Liberal Party, because they are being evicted in Ottawa for nonpayment of rent.

Mr. Speaker: Does anyone have a question?

Mr. Philip: Would the minister tell us why she has introduced an act without the protection for those tenants that she promised 15 weeks ago would be included in the act?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: When the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale asked me that question, the commitment I made was that we would consider that whole issue when we looked at the Rental Housing Protection Act. If the member takes a look at our plans to extend the act, we have also released a paper. In the paper, the whole question he raises is part of the discussion and will be part of the discussion with all the groups we are talking with. We will come to a conclusion at the end of that process, and some determination will be made about how to treat tenants in those apartment buildings that are registered as condominiums but are being used as rental accommodation.

Mr. Philip: I am sure the tenants will feel very protected by yet another paper.

The fact is that the minister on January 7 said, "We will undertake to look at that issue very closely and to make sure that tenants are protected." What protection is being given to the majority of tenants who are living in buildings that were built after January 1, 1975, that are registered as condominiums? What protection is being given as those people are being evicted on the street at the moment?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The question the honourable member asks indicates the complexity of this whole area of condominiums and apartments. That is the reason we have to look at all the different angles in order to come up with the appropriate answer. We will do that. Everything the member has said I will take very seriously as we come to our conclusions.

PETITIONS

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Sterling: I have a petition, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Minister of Education has refused to make available the public information pertaining to the amount of funding this government has given for construction of new schools and school renovation in this province in a list form;

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario"—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have called for petitions and many of the members are not allowing the members to present their petitions and be heard. Order. The member for Carleton, continue.

Mr. Sterling: Perhaps with your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I will begin again.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Minister of Education has refused to make available the public information pertaining to the amount of funding this government has given for construction of new schools and school renovation in this province in a list form;

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We wish to make known to the officials and members of parliament of our provincial government our dissatisfaction with the following educational allocations in the form as provided to us by the Minister of Education."

I will read off the allocation, which will generate capital works valued at approximately \$111 million for York regional school boards. The York Region Board of Education has received allocation for six projects valued at approximately \$53.5 million; the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, eight projects valued at \$57.5 million.

The Ontario government has allocated funds to the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board, the Peel Board of Education and the Dufferin County Board of Education, which will generate capital projects valued at more than \$96 million. The Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board's projects include a new permanent high school, Father Michael Goetz, new secondary schools in the Brampton west and Lakeshore communities, new elementary schools in Heart Lake, Hurontario, East Credit and a major addition to St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School. The Peel board's projects are for new elementary schools in the Erin Mills west, Fletchers Creek and East Credit communities.

The Durham Board of Education has received allocations for three projects valued at more than \$14.7 million; and the Durham Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, eight projects valued at \$35.5 million.

The Scarborough Board of Education will receive capital projects valued at \$8.92 million. The projects include two new schools, Morris Road and Malvern No. 12.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am just having a little problem following. Is this all one petition?

Mr. Sterling: Yes, it is all one petition.

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: The Metropolitan Separate School Board will generate capital funds valued at \$20 million. The Toronto Board of Education will receive \$400,000 for renovations to Howard Public School.

The school boards in Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Newcastle communities will receive capital projects valued at \$4.159 million. The Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Newcastle Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received allocation for two projects, an allowance for furniture and equipment valued at \$160,000 for St. Stephen's School in Bowmanville and \$125,000 portapac for St. Peter's School in Peterborough. The Northumberland and Newcastle Board of Education received allocation for five projects valued at more than \$3.874 million.

The Cochrane District School Board will receive \$1.941 million. The Cochrane Iroquois Falls Board of Education has received an allocation for renovations valued at \$140,000.

The two Simcoe County school boards have received \$16 million. The Simcoe County Board of Education has received allocations for four projects valued at \$7.923 million. The Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received allocations for three projects valued at more than \$8.5 million.

The North Shore school boards, both school boards, have received \$652,000. The North Shore Board of Education has received an allocation of \$362,000. The North Shore District Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received \$290,000.

The Prescott and Russell County Board has received \$512,000. Kenora's two school boards have received a total of \$3.6 million.

The Kenora Board of Education has received an allocation of \$1.1 million; the Kenora District Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received an allocation of \$2.5 million.

The Lincoln County school boards have received a total of \$5.815 million. The Lincoln County Roman Catholic Separate School Board gets \$5.7 million of that; the Lincoln County Board of Education gets \$115,000.

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Mr. Speaker: I have looked carefully at the standing orders regarding the presenting of petitions. It says: "A member may present a

petition from his place in the House during the routine proceedings under the proceeding 'Petitions.' He shall endorse his name thereon and confine himself to a statement of the petitioners, the number of signatures and the material allegations."

It appears to me that the honourable member is reading from a great number of pieces of paper and I just wonder if the member would complete the petition with a very brief statement.

Mr. Sterling: Nothing would please me more. I guess my frustration is that this information has not been provided to me or any other members of the opposition in a coherent fashion, whereby I could present it in a coherent fashion. All of these pages represent part of the petition. It is unfortunate that the government tries to shield the information in terms of how they are presented—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I appreciate that and I just would like to ask the member to consider the rule carefully. I think he could do it in a more concise form, because we do not have an opportunity to view the petition prior to seeing it. We may have to rule it out of order—I am not sure—after seeing it. If the member could complete it briefly, I would appreciate it.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, the petition is an unusual one, but it is an unusual circumstance. As I understand it, the petition deals with the allocations of the funding, without getting into any specific details. The content of what the allocations are is, in fact, intended to be part of the petition.

I think the member is about a third or so of the way through those in there, and there may be reason to examine the petition after and say technically we are not 100 per cent sure it was all on the same piece of paper, except that I want to point out to the House that the member will have it all in order tomorrow and he will have to start all over again.

Given that and the liberties that have been provided in petitions in the past, it will facilitate time in the House today and tomorrow if he just finishes.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to speak to that because I appreciate what the House leader for the Conservative Party is saying. I have heard the comments made by the member for Carleton. Perhaps we could facilitate his concern and the business of the House which has been agreed to in terms of Orders and Notices today by supplying the honourable member with all of the information he apparently feels he needs.

In that way we could accommodate his real desire for the information, while at the same time moving on with the business of the House that has been agreed to today because, as the House leaders know, by agreement we decided today to proceed with second reading of Bill 115 and then to proceed with the budget debate, which has been much sought after and which a number of honourable members on all sides wish, I presume, to begin.

Mr. Speaker: May I just say I did not want to interfere in any way in the member's presentation. However, I felt that possibly he was giving many reasons the petitioners were dissatisfied and that really is not necessary in a petition. A petition is just to state that they are dissatisfied. I hope the member will understand that.

Mr. Sterling: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think it is very, very important that the public of Ontario, as well as the petitioners, get their right to place before the public of Ontario what these allocations were, because we have not got that information from the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward). He seems to like to hide it.

The two Sudbury boards of education have received \$3,188,000. Of that \$3,188,000, the public Sudbury Board of Education gets \$75,000; the Sudbury District Roman Catholic Separate School Board gets \$3,113,000.

The Lake Superior Board of Education and the North of Superior District Roman Catholic Separate School Board get a total of \$107,000—the public board \$58,000 and the Roman Catholic board \$49,000.

The two Kirkland Lake school boards get \$410,000; the Kirkland Lake Board of Education gets \$260,000 and the Kirkland Lake District Roman Catholic Separate Board gets \$150,000.

The two Kapuskasing school boards receive \$1,175,000. The Kapuskasing Board of Education, the public board, receives \$1.1 million; the Roman Catholic separate school board receives \$75,000.

Geraldton's two school boards receive \$1.05 million; the Geraldton Board of Education receives \$987,000 and the Geraldton District Roman Catholic Separate School Board receives \$65,000.

The Ontario government has given to the Parry Sound Board of Education \$298,000. The East Parry Sound Board of Education has received \$255,000.

The Kent County school boards have received \$465,000: \$317,000 to the Kent County Board of

Education and \$148,500 to the Kent County Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

The two Wellington county school boards have received \$13.4 million. The Wellington County Board of Education received \$7.4 million; the Wellington County Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received \$5.98 million.

1510

The Fort Frances-Rainy River District Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received \$927,000. The Fort Frances-Rainy River Board of Education has received \$16,000.

Essex county's two school boards have received \$3.6 million, \$55,000 going to the Essex County Board of Education and \$3,525,000 going to the Essex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

The Welland County Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received \$3,249,000 and the Niagara South Board of Education has received \$279,000.

The London area boards have received \$11 million. The London Board of Education has received \$5.88 million and the London and Middlesex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received \$5 million.

The Espanola Board of Education has a capital project valued at \$1,071,000. The Muskoka Board of Education will be receiving \$1.8 million.

The Brant county school boards, in combination, will receive \$6,723,000. The Brant County Board of Education work will consist of a \$525,000 addition to an elementary school and the replacement of a boiler at Echo Place school at \$93,000. The Brant County Roman Catholic Separate School Board includes a \$4.75-million addition to St. John's College and a \$1,347,000 addition to St. Leo school.

The Hamilton-Wentworth Roman Catholic Separate School Board will be receiving \$3.25 million. They will also be receiving a new elementary school worth \$3,258,000 in the Gurnett neighbourhood. It is unclear which board that is associated with.

The Renfrew County Roman Catholic Separate School Board will be receiving \$6.25 million. The board will be receiving a \$6-million addition to Bishop Smith Catholic school in Pembroke and an addition to St. James school in Eganville valued at \$250,000.

There will be \$1.3 million for the Northern Lights Secondary School in Moosonee operated by the James Bay Lowlands Secondary School Board.

There will be \$407,000 for the Elgin County Board of Education.

For the two school boards in the counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, \$1,439,000. The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Board of Education will receive \$1.4 million for renovations to La Citadelle in Cornwall. The separate school board will receive an allocation of \$30,000 for a new boiler at St. Columban's West school in Cornwall.

Hon. Mr. Conway: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I have been listening very attentively to the submissions of the member for Carleton. I am a very patient person. I am looking again at standing order 31 and can see no relationship between what the honourable member is doing and this standing order. I simply repeat that we have to operate this House with some regard to these rules and with some understanding of the way in which we have ordered the business of this place.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and quite frankly through you my colleague from Carleton, to think seriously about what is transpiring here. I think the standing orders are clear, I think they are helpful and I can in no way see what the relationship is with what the honourable member is doing, however strongly he feels about this issue. I might encourage him to engage in the budget debate momentarily, rather than to continue in a fashion which seems to be completely at variance with the spirit and the intent of standing order 31.

Mr. Speaker: I understand it was not really a point of order. However, it was a suggestion the member may consider.

Mr. Sterling: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Carleton region school boards will receive a total of \$32.25 million. The Carleton Board of Education will receive an allocation—not the money they get, an allocation—of \$6.47 million and the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board will receive \$25.7 million in allocations.

The two school boards in Dryden will receive \$200,000.

The Grey County Board of Education will receive \$107,000.

The Norfolk Board of Education will receive \$25,000 for some renovations to one of its schools.

The Huron County Board of Education will receive \$150,000.

The Bruce County Board of Education will receive \$1.5 million for a gymnasium at the Kincardine District Secondary School.

The two school boards in Thunder Bay will receive a total of \$6 million. The Lakehead Board of Education will receive projects valued at \$4.8 million. The Lakehead District Roman Catholic Separate School Board will receive allocations for projects valued at \$1.2 million.

The Lambton County Board of Education will be receiving \$775,000.

The school boards in the counties of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville will be receiving \$230,000. The Lanark Leeds and Grenville Roman Catholic Separate School Board will be receiving \$55,000 for a boiler replacement.

The Sault Ste. Marie boards will be receiving \$4.9 million. The Sault Ste. Marie Board of Education has received \$610,000; the Sault Ste. Marie District Roman Catholic Separate School Board will be receiving \$4.3 million.

Mr. Callahan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I just wanted to inquire whether the member is going to sign the petition, because under standing order 31(d), as a solicitor, he is not entitled to sign it.

Mr. Sterling: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the two Oxford county school boards, although the member for Oxford (Mr. Tatham) made an announcement, he did not tell us how much we were going to get in those particular boards.

The two Halton school boards received \$18 million but it is not clear from the particular press announcement how much each of those two boards will be receiving. Again, the information is confusing.

The Perth county board will be receiving \$125,000.

Waterloo region's two school boards will be receiving \$21 million: "The Waterloo county board's projects include construction of two elementary schools in the Forest Heights West and Silverheights communities and additions to Bridgeport and Linwood district elementary schools.... The Waterloo County Roman Catholic Separate School Board's allocations include a new Clemens Mill elementary school and additional allocation to the board's new Kitchener high school of approximately \$6.7 million." It does not tell us what each of the boards is receiving.

1520

The Frontenac-Lennox and Addington County Roman Catholic Separate School Board will be receiving a total of \$17 million. The Frontenac-Lennox and Addington County Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received allocation for Holy Cross high school valued at \$13 million

and for a new elementary school in the northwest Bayridge community valued at \$3 million, as well as an additional allocation to J. J. O'Neill Elementary School.

The Nipissing district's two school boards will be receiving \$5.76 million. The Nipissing Board of Education has received an allocation for \$1,015,000. The Nipissing District Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received an allocation valued at \$4.75 million.

The Central Algoma Board of Education has received \$66,000. The Timmins District Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received \$951,000.

That completes the petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Callahan: I have a petition here signed by a number of people from my riding and my colleague to the north. It is addressed:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"As concerned citizens of Ontario who worship in the city of Brampton, we are convinced that it is the province's responsibility and not that of the municipalities to pass and administer laws regarding work and recreation on Sundays.

"We urge the Ontario government to revise the current legislation in order to uphold more strongly a common day of pause across the province. We believe that a common day for family and worship activities is essential to the wellbeing of Ontario."

It is signed by myself.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. MacDonald: I do have an important but short petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We strongly disagree with the college of nurses' proposed standards and levels of nursing practice. The college has been conducting information sessions around the province the past several months and will be in Peterborough today. Many questions and concerns have not been addressed following these sessions.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To urge the college of nurses to cease and desist promulgating such divisive acts."

I support this petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the

Legislative Assembly of Ontario, which in part says:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson wants world-class Sunday shopping, but the people of Ontario do not, we request that consideration be given to the views of" these people "who have signed the petition, which also reads:

"We love our families. Don't legislate employees to work on Sundays. We do not need wide-open Sunday shopping."

Mr. Speaker, rather than read into the record all the signatures to that petition, I will tell you there are quite a number. Two of the signatures are Doug Paton, 785 Eversley Drive—

Mr. Speaker: It is not necessary to read the names.

Mrs. Marland: I am just going to read two.

Mr. Speaker: It is not necessary to read any names.

Mrs. Marland: I do read into the record Doug Paton and Sonia Paton at 785 Eversley Drive, Mississauga, L5H 2E2. My signature is in support of that petition.

I also have some other petitions here, which number approximately 72. They are petitions which say: "Let's not leave this issue up to the municipalities. This is the responsibility of the provincial government." They are also opposed to Sunday shopping.

Mr. Speaker: Was that addressed to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly?

Mrs. Marland: Yes.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT CONSTRUCTION ACT

Hon. Mr. Sorbara moved second reading of Bill 115, An Act to provide for Construction Work in connection with the Toronto Economic Summit.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am delighted that the House now has an opportunity to debate Bill 115 and give its approval in principle to the bill. As I mentioned in my statement of a few days ago when I advised the House of my intention to introduce Bill 115, I made the point that the bill is in fact facilitative and technical in that it allows and ensures that construction work at the Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre related to the economic summit being held in Toronto between June 19 and June 21 can be done.

The work involves primarily security for world leaders who will be attending the summit. It ensures that the work will proceed without

disruption, regardless of whether there are other work stoppages in Ontario's industrial, commercial and institutional construction sectors. That part of the construction industry is commonly known as ICI.

I just want to point out to my colleagues in the House the purpose of the bill and why it is being presented at this time. Members of the House will know that all the trades in the ICI sector are governed by specific provisions of the Labour Relations Act which require that contracts in that sector of the construction industry be negotiated on a two-year basis. As my colleagues will know, all those contracts expire on April 30. There are, of course, important negotiations going on at present among all the trades in the ICI sector and all the contractors involved in that sector as well.

The design and thrust of the bill is to have absolutely no impact on those negotiations and at the same time to ensure that work will be able to proceed with the construction work that will be necessary to appropriately house and provide for the economic summit.

Within the ministry, we have done a great deal of consultation with all the parties and have heard from the parties in regard to this bill. What the bill does in fact is extend the contracts affecting those trades that may be required to do work at the Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre and the other areas scheduled in the bill only to the extent, I point out, that work is necessary and required for the economic summit.

In effect, what the bill does is extend those contracts for a period of time, either to June 30 or, if the parties reach agreement before June 30, the time at which the parties have reached agreement. The bill, as I said, is facilitative and technical. But it is important as well to ensure that where work is being done, it is not being done contrary to the law. I say "not contrary to the law" because in the absence of this bill, were a trade on strike, the act as it currently stands provides that all members of that trade be on strike and that no work can proceed within that trade anywhere in the province.

This bill simply allows that the work will be able to proceed. I look forward to the comments of the members of both opposition parties on the bill and I also look forward to speedy passage of Bill 115 in this House.

Mr. Mackenzie: Very briefly, there is not a need to spend much time on this bill. It is an unusual circumstance, a specific situation and a specific project as a result of the meeting of some of the world leaders. If there is a sad side to it, it is

that we should have to pass such a piece of legislation in Ontario. It speaks somewhat of the fact that there is not always good-faith bargaining in bargaining situations.

But this will have no effect on those workers, other than to see that this particular situation is taken care of, and they will get any of the benefits as a result of the contract negotiations. They themselves, I think, could point out also just how co-operative the workers are in a specific situation like this. I also wish we sometimes had the companies as co-operative as the workers and the unions are prepared to be in a situation like this. We support it.

1530

The Deputy Speaker: Do other members have questions and comments?

Mr. Harris: Our party is certainly supportive of the legislation. I believe it will, though, impact on the negotiations, and I hope it does so in a positive way. It removes from the bargaining process a very unique event, the threat of holding up, if you like, a very unique event.

As I thought about this particular piece of legislation—I thank the minister for the notice and consultation we had on it beforehand—I have tried to see whether in fact there is an advantage to one side or the other. There are two sides in labour negotiations; let us not kid ourselves. They each do represent a vested interest and both interests are very important. It removes from the negotiating process the threat, if you like, of interfering with and causing a real shemuzzle with the Toronto economic summit.

I guess I would have preferred it, and I perhaps concur with my colleague from the New Democratic Party, if both sides had been able to sign a letter of intent on their own without the necessity of the legislation. I regret that did not take place. However, I really do not know whether the removal of this threat benefits the union side or the company side. I think it would have skewed the bargaining on the basis of this one project that is so important to our federal government and to our image on behalf of the federal government.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member's time is over; two minutes.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, I thought I was responding to the minister or to the—you asked me to respond to his comments?

The Deputy Speaker: That is right.

Mr. Harris: OK, there you go.

The Deputy Speaker: Do any more members wish to respond with questions and comments? If not, does the minister wish to respond to the

questions and comments? Do other members wish to debate now? Maybe the member for Nipissing would like to continue.

Mr. Harris: Maybe I will continue with my debate. For the Hansard record, the first two minutes may be considered part of my comments on the bill. I apologize, Mr. Speaker, I did not hear you. I thought there was more debate.

I think this is where I was at: It removes a very artificial vehicle from the bargaining process that I think is important. As I have stated, this project is of significance to the city of Toronto, the province of Ontario, the government of Canada, and of course, to our image across the world, so we are very supportive of the legislation.

I would have preferred it if it could have been resolved without bringing in this bill, not necessarily the whole series of contracts, but in fact there was another vehicle whereby all the unions involved and those negotiating on behalf of the companies involved could have satisfied all parties.

However, having said that, I think this is the next best way around it. We are certainly not only supportive of the legislation, but are also supportive, as we always are with legislation in this House, in seeing that it receives speedy and unimpeded passage through this chamber on both second and third readings, hopefully this week.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments on the statement of the member for Nipissing? If not, do other members wish to participate in the debate? Does the minister want to wind up, please?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Very briefly, I want to thank both of the speakers who have spoken in the debate who have indicated their support.

I will simply tell my friend the member for Nipissing, in response to his suggestion that he wished there could be another way we could accomplish the objectives of the bill, that I reiterate what I said in my opening comments, and that is that the bill is simply technical. The technicality of the Labour Relations Act as it currently stands is that a worker who is a member of a trade union that is on strike is prohibited by the act from performing work in any part of the province under any industrial, commercial and institutional contract. That is, in effect, why we are not able to do what the bill intends to do and what the bill purports to do by way of an agreement.

The good news, of course, is that the parties are agreeable to this bill being passed. There has been a great deal of consultation and both contractors and trade unions generally under-

stand the importance of the economic summit, the fact that Toronto and Ontario and Canada will be on stage for the entire world and that it is appropriate we show ourselves to be great hosts, to be the kind of hosts we know we can be.

In order to overcome the technicality and to ensure that by doing so we do not interfere in any way in the important collective bargaining process that is ongoing right now, we have seen fit to introduce this piece of legislation.

I end by once again thanking my friends in both opposition parties for indicating their support in helping this bill receive quick passage in this House.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

DEBAT SUR LE BUDGET

(suite)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

M. Pouliot: Monsieur le Président, cela me fait plaisir de prendre les quelques moments que la Chambre nous alloue pour participer au débat concernant le budget du trésorier (M. R. F. Nixon) qui a été déposé en Chambre la semaine dernière. Vous allez bien comprendre que, dans d'autres circonstances, mon plaisir serait grandissant. Mais les données, la façon, la méthode dont s'est servi le trésorier de la province, n'apportent que des réactions négatives, surtout dans le Nord de l'Ontario.

I welcome the opportunity to participate in the debate. I would like to begin my brief remarks by congratulating the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) on his good fortune. Indeed, he has hit upon good times. We have had a recovery in Ontario that started somewhere around 1982. In fact, figures will attest that in 1987, last year, the economy grew by some 4.2 per cent in Ontario. In the past three years, Ontarians have benefited to the tune of some 16 per cent in economic growth.

Ironically, even with economic growth to the tune of 16 per cent, the disparity between northern and southern Ontario continues to exist. The disparities between the more fortunate people, like the Treasurer of Ontario, and the people who work for small salaries get wider and wider.

Never in the history of the province has such an opportunity been given to a person to rectify

what is wrong with the tax system. No one has ever been better equipped to achieve fairness in the tax system. I, too, have searched long and hard—I really have—to find an answer to the problem that is plaguing the citizens of this province.

1540

I know, and I have known for the past three years that the Treasurer of Ontario commands respect—

Interjection.

Mr. Pouliot: —yes, affection, and admiration like no other member of this House.

Mr. Wiseman: Don't go that far.

Mr. Pouliot: I am not going too far.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, what are you leading up to?

Mr. Pouliot: The Treasurer should just stay around. He should stay tuned. I will help him.

In fact, it is said that the new members of the Liberal caucus, and there are many, almost worship the ground the Treasurer walks on.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Get serious.

Mr. Pouliot: No question. The Treasurer is an educated person. The Treasurer is intelligent. The Treasurer is a person of authority. The Treasurer is a powerful person.

The Treasurer should be accountable, and yet he can laugh, he can ridicule members of this House when they convey the following thoughts: that we have people in this province who are working for the minimum wage, which is \$4.55 an hour—the working poor—but we have, on the other hand, corporations that are making, collectively, hundreds of millions of dollars and not paying any taxes, yet some of those people on the minimum wage are paying taxes.

I have searched long and hard. Why would the Treasurer allow this system to continue? What about a social conscience? Is it because those companies bought him off? I do not think so. Why is it? Is he hoping that if he socks it to us during the first year of office, people will forget in the second, third and fourth years and allow him to continue? If so, must I remind the Treasurer of Mme Denis on the steps of Parliament Hill addressing the Prime Minister and shaking her fist as a result of the attempt to partially de-index old age security? How can he hope that, when he should be accountable to all Ontarians?

His mandate is to represent people from the north and people from the south; rich, middle-income and poor. He had an opportunity with

increased revenue to ease the burden on the middle class and on the less fortunate in our society. That was his mandate. If he has a social conscience, his first duty is to put more into the pockets of the less fortunate and make the people pay who can well afford to pay, so that we can at last say we have a fair tax system.

New Democrats are the first ones to recognize that to build more and better roads costs money and that to enjoy facilities such as more new hospitals and better, more modern schools costs money. We have no quarrel that the Treasurer must balance and pay for those facilities. We have no quarrel and have never had any quarrel with this simple equation. But what we will not and cannot tolerate is that not everybody is being treated the same, and it is a disgrace. It is a situation we cannot tolerate.

On page 10 of the budget presented last week—before the minister chose to run away, when he just tabled the budget—under the heading “Roads, Highways and Transit,” my friend the Treasurer says, “We enjoy an excellent system of roads and highways.”

The world does not end at Earl's Shell station. Who told the minister that—the boys at Shell?

“We enjoy an excellent system of roads and highways.” Yet the contradiction is so clear: He commits very little money, but the Treasurer has the audacity to impose a one-cent increase on gasoline prices across the province. The minister must pay for better roads, so we will give him one cent more a gallon. But what the Treasurer does not tell us is that this afternoon at Earl's Shell, and the boys at Shell told us this, the price of a litre of unleaded gasoline was 41.9 cents.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: At Earl's Shell?

Mr. Pouliot: That is right.

In Schreiber, Ontario, it was 56.9 cents, a disparity of some 15 cents a litre, and the Treasurer will recall that we travel longer distances up north.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You're being ripped off.

Mr. Pouliot: If we are being ripped off, the Treasurer is saying it.

In the community of Kingfisher Lake, it is 66 cents a litre. In Fort Severn—those people are Ontarians as well—they pay \$1.01 a litre. They were paying a buck, but that was not enough, the Treasurer says. There are no roads leading to Fort Severn. The road system ends in Pickle Lake. A buck a litre for our first Canadians, for the people of the north, is not enough so we will make it \$1.01.

Surely, the more money the minister spends on essential services up north—his provincial sales

tax, for instance. What we have been saying for a number of years—it is a reasonable alternative; it is done elsewhere and it works—is, why does the minister not give us a bit of a tax break for goods that are manufactured and produced in the north?

Oh, the minister may not wish to eliminate the sales tax and go from seven per cent to zero, but if he made it four per cent instead of seven per cent, now eight per cent, he would encourage people to come and establish themselves in the north. They would produce in the north because they were getting an incentive. Then they would believe in the Treasurer because finally he meant what he said.

What he has done is he has taken money out of the economy of northern Ontario in a climate that needs incentives. He certainly has not taken his responsibility seriously, and I am very disappointed.

I am hoping the Treasurer will honour his promises, the promises he made last year when he announced with great fanfare that he was introducing a northern Ontario heritage fund, something we had been asking for for a period exceeding and surpassing 15 years, a special fund so that people could look to the future with confidence. Some communities may wish to establish land banks. The Treasurer would give incentives.

We agreed. We went into the Treasurer's office with our ideas and came out of his office with his, but we said: "It's OK. The guy means what he says." No. It was \$30 million in the budget of 1987. What happened to that money? Not five cents of it was spent.

Then, last week, the Treasurer trumpets in a born-again heritage fund. Illusions last year; a bit of magic last year. "We promised \$30 million. We didn't spend a penny. We broke our promise. But now this year, we promise that you'll get \$30 million for the next 12 years."

1550

I want to believe the Treasurer. I want to believe him, but he has to give me a chance to do so. His track record is dreadful. While I convey the sincere thoughts, aspirations and needs of the north, the Treasurer just lies there and intends to do little to honour the commitment.

It is a terrible situation. Over \$34 million has been taken from the export duty on softwood lumber, and \$30 million for the heritage fund that was not spent. The Treasurer owes us \$30 million, and \$34 million that left the north—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We didn't have a chance to pass the legislation; somebody kept calling elections.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You people were obstructing the business of the House.

The Deputy Speaker: Please. The member for Lake Nipigon has the floor.

Mr. Pouliot: He also owes \$34 million derived from the softwood lumber that left the north and went down south. That is \$64 million the Treasurer owes us, because we believed him. That \$64 million goes some way; it gives us, indeed, "a break."

The people of the north, after receiving his budget, are saying, "We was robbed." It is a terrible situation.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You can be a lot more dramatic than that.

Mr. Pouliot: No, I do not catastrophize. It is the truth. The Treasurer knows how to play the game. He is hiding \$282 million under the auspices of a liquid reserve. It will resurface in the third or fourth year of office.

There is a silver lining to the Treasurer's budget. The issue of Sunday shopping in northern Ontario has been resolved. There is nothing left. We make less money than our counterparts down south and it costs us more money to live. We are getting the worst of both worlds. Northerners are the first people to recognize when fair play is achieved.

We choose to go up north. Many of us did so in quest of jobs. We thought that we would enhance our lot, that indeed things were going to get better. Things are better, but we have yet to enter the economic mainstream of Ontario. In many cases, the gap keeps getting wider and wider.

The Treasurer has hurt us severely and he will have to carry the guilt. To give us a one per cent increase in the sales tax when we were expecting a benefit, when he could have achieved it, is indeed a disappointment.

A full cent for the price of unleaded gasoline hurts in the pocketbook of average people. There was no need to do it. The Treasurer had enough money. He chose to ignore his responsibility to tax the people who could afford to pay taxes.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that some three years ago we conveyed to the Treasurer the need to establish fairness in terms of the Hemlo gold fields. The three mines at Hemlo are the richest gold deposits in Canada. They pay. They are assessed for the purpose of schools. They pay school taxes. They pay a good deal of money; more money leaving the north, getting into the general revenue of the province.

The municipalities of Marathon and Manitowadge in the riding of Lake Nipigon and the sister municipality of White River in the riding of my colleague the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) have received nothing in terms of municipal assessment. Of course, there has been some recognition in lieu of assessment: they have received approximately half of what reasonable assessment would generate.

It has taken more than three years to have the richest gold deposit in Canada pay taxes like everyone else so that the communities' other industries as well will not be asked unjustly to carry the burden of infrastructure work in their communities. We provide schools, recreation, sewers, water and fire protection, and we do not mind. You pay taxes, you go to work, part of your paycheque goes to taxes. Fair game. We are getting service and we are proud of it. Yet you cannot help but ask what is happening with all that gold leaving the north and not five cents of taxes going back to municipalities.

I ask the Treasurer, how can he live with himself? What is he doing here? He has all that power. He can do something. He can put more into the system than he takes out. I am not asking the Treasurer to play the poverty game. I am not asking him to do that. I am asking him to give a chance to people to have confidence in the system one more time. He is not helping out.

We signed an accord three years ago in good faith, saying that after 42 years of Progressive Conservative government we would give a chance to the Liberals to see what they could do: "We will sign a deal and it will work." The kind of budget that was imposed on the people of Ontario would never have taken place two years ago, nor before the election, because we would have kicked those rascals out, nothing short of that. The Treasurer knows that.

We will not see this kind of budget in the third or fourth year of office. What is being done here is he is socking it to the average people of Ontario in the first year of a majority government, which reflects typical arrogance, you people cannot stand political prosperity, but people will not forget.

I wish to close on my usual positive note. Not all is bad. When the north is the recipient of well-thought-out government programs, it appreciates them. I take some pride and some honour in mentioning that, not in terms of the riding of Lake Nipigon—it matters little—but, more important, in terms of northerners, yes, things are looking better. It does not pain me to say this. The entrepreneurial spirit of the people

of the north has taken care of it, coupled of course with some government initiative—with little direction. We still do not know where we will be three, four or five years down the line. We still believe the government is working at it.

But the disparity we feel keeps growing. Our appetites are larger. We see what is happening elsewhere. We are better informed. We know it is not easy. It is much easier to stand here and say, "Gimme, gimme, gimme," and when the government does, I can say it is not enough. But it is beyond this.

I think northerners have a legitimate beef. Nine times out of 10, the grievances that I hear are legitimate. I am sure the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) hears the same and would share that sentiment. People mean well. People do not lie. They want to be like the others. I have lived 23 years in a community where we had 4,000 people and we had to come to ministers with cap in hand asking for a chance to be like the others. No public transportation system: those things have been rectified because we have hit upon good times, but we cannot do it by ourselves up north.

1600

This budget could have given us an injection. This budget could have allowed for lower hydro rates. This budget could have given flexibility to a government to take a chance, to be imaginative and to be innovative, to cut electricity rates and to cut the sales tax some to encourage people to come up north. It is done in other jurisdictions and it works.

If we are to compete with the Barries of this world, we need a blend of the entrepreneurial spirit that we have and a gentle push, not interference, from the government. The Treasurer has the means. He needs the political will. He needs the courage. He needs to be bold. But heavens, he has the money to do so. If he does not have it now, he will never have it.

I am disappointed that he chose the other direction, but the future will last some time, and I know the Treasurer will join with us in realizing next year that the future of Ontario belongs up north, with its people and its resources, and that he will acquiesce in our legitimate demands and will give us the tools to do and to achieve what the people down south take for granted.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I appreciate the positive note that marked the end of the honourable member's comments. I always enjoy very much hearing him speak, as do other members of the House. I regret that his natural ebullience and good humour are so much submerged by the fact

that he has to follow the old New Democratic Party whining, gloom-and-doom approach to what really must be one of the most buoyant economies the north has experienced in his lifetime, and even mine.

It is almost impossible to understand how he can express these negative views when the price of metals is the highest it has been, almost in history. Gold is being produced at a rate greater than in almost any other nation in the world. Our pulp and paper industry is working at capacity, at the highest prices in history. In fact, the north is—I am not going to use the word “booming” because probably it is not booming—progressive and expanding, with opportunities for young people and even people the age of the honourable member.

I want to reiterate one comment he made, that we have initiatives dealing with Manitouwadge and other communities which have not had their share of municipal revenues. I think that in his own way, he gave us a bit of a backhanded, underhanded compliment by recognizing that we have moved in that direction. Manitouwadge itself, I believe, received \$500,000 from our provincial Treasury last year just because Wendy Bell was so appropriately aggressive in these important matters. I give her, and other municipal politicians in the north, a lot of credit for assisting the government in coming to a conclusion that will be for the benefit of all.

I have a feeling that I will have a further chance to comment on the honourable member's speech, but I want to thank him for his views, and I regret, along with him, that his being immersed in democratic socialism has somehow put his natural abilities under such a bushel.

Mr. Pouliot: It is ironic that the Treasurer should mention the revenues from the mining industries. Again, he is quite right. In fact, the minister is so right that revenues from mining in northern Ontario will exceed and surpass anything that has been seen before. However, provincial revenues will not improve because of a style of management imposed by the provincial government. It is called a tax break for mining. There is nothing wrong with that, but try to establish a mine. Electricity rates are too high. What we are saying is, offer incentive to get people into production, and once production is achieved, then let the people pay a “fair rate of taxation,” like everyone else.

It is the world upside down. Revenues have gone down from the mining sector, and they are achieving record profits. Does that make any sense? If I make more money, I will pay more

taxes, and I should. But the more the mine makes, the less money it pays. So again, it is ironic: It is the world upside down. This is the kind of system that we wish to rectify.

The Deputy Speaker: I think the government whip wanted to make a request.

Mr. Reycraft: It is apparent that there has been some confusion about the order of speaking in this afternoon's debate. The agreement among the whips was that we would follow the established practice, with the government, which adjourned the debate yesterday, opening the debate this afternoon, to be followed by the official opposition and then the third party. It is obvious that certainly was overlooked, and certainly nobody intended anything untoward.

I wonder if I might ask for unanimous consent to allow the member for Halton Centre (Mrs. Sullivan), who had planned to speak first for us in the debate this afternoon, to speak next, then to go to the third party and then back to our next speaker, so we are back into the order that had been agreed upon.

Mr. Pouliot: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I wish to apologize, but, honestly, I was unaware and, of course, therefore recognized by the chair.

Mr. McLean: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would be pleased to forgo my turn and to heed what the government whip says, because I would certainly love to hear the good part of the budget, and I am sure that she will not be very long.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I think it is important to know that the member rose to be recognized, as members do in the order, and, as he was recognized, began to speak. But we have no problem with shifting back to this rotation.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you for the points of explanation and the points of generosity.

Mrs. Sullivan: I am pleased to participate in this debate on the budget in what is in fact my first address to the House. Having drawn number 55 in our roster for the throne speech debate and number 93 for private members' bills, I am indeed happy to be on the floor before the next election.

Mr. Wiseman: You could come over here and you would be on a lot faster. You would be on every second day.

Mrs. Sullivan: I will forgo that opportunity, thanks.

Many members will know that for two years prior to my election I worked with the Treasurer, and that time was enervating and challenging. In fact, I can echo the Treasurer's words and say that being there was like having died and gone to Harvard. I came to share the Treasurer's respect for the "several acres of experts" in the Frost building. Those words came from the Treasurer in a different role at a different time, but he certainly was describing a group of dedicated public servants, whom I join the Treasurer in commending.

During that period I participated in the production of three budgets, all of which were presented to the House with a formal address, I might add. This budget, however, continues the tradition and direction started in the last three budgets, and in my view it is one of the most solid fiscal documents that has ever been presented in Ontario. The budget puts forward a plan that addresses immediate social needs of today. As well, it takes significant steps in planning for tomorrow, for the time that our children will be taking their place in the workforce.

It is an investment plan for continued prosperity. It is a plan for a time when what we now consider innovation and opportunity will be the standard methods of operation, when markets that are being explored or opened today will be our valued and substantial business partners, both in Canada and elsewhere; and it is a plan which underlines that continued economic prosperity will ensure that we can continue to treat our people with fairness and justice in the future.

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I am proud to represent Halton Centre in this Legislature and while I do not intend to give members a hills-and-valleys speech about my riding, I do want to acquaint members with some of its features, because in many ways Halton Centre is a microcosm of Ontario, a mirror of the province.

We have vibrant industry, including a significant manufacturing component. We have a strong agricultural community, including some of the most forward-looking farmers in Ontario. We house the main campus of Sheridan College. There is a provincial park within our boundaries and we share with surrounding areas a portion of the Niagara Escarpment.

Along with other communities surrounding Metro, we have a burgeoning new population which has put stress on our infrastructure: our schools, our roads, our health services and our social support systems. We have a sophisticated and highly skilled workforce which is sought out

not only by local business, but in other centres as well.

Like other Ontarians, residents of Halton Centre have high expectations of the province and of the programs and policies which the provincial government provides. Like other Ontarians, Halton Centre people are willing to pay the cost for delivery of high-quality services, and like many other Ontarians, my constituents support action that enables the less fortunate of our population to have a share in our prosperity. This budget, therefore, is important to the people of Halton Centre.

The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) complained yesterday that the Treasurer frequently referred to the fiscal and financial record of the previous government in a negative way. Well, people in my riding know that the capital allocations for new schools in Halton, which were announced yesterday, have a value equivalent to 25 per cent of the allocations for the entire province in the last year of Tory government. They know there is a need for the substantial capital commitments for new schools which this government has made; that the promises which were being made are being kept and that new schools are being built; that the \$900-million, three-year funding commitment is vital for both today and tomorrow. They know that things have changed since the bad old days my honourable colleague hopes we will forget.

People in Halton Centre know the face of the province is changing, that in the last 25 years the look of our workforce has altered. In the 1950s, less than one quarter of Canadian women were in the paid workforce. By 1986, this figure had risen to two thirds of Canadian women. In Ontario, of a population of 4.2 million women, 2.1 million are now employed. The adult female full-time employment grew by 4.5 per cent in 1987 while male full-time employment grew only by three per cent, and two thirds of women with children under the age of 15 are now employed.

People in Halton Centre know that child care is both a fiscal and a social issue and that this government is addressing it. Every new school will have a child care centre. Since 1984-85, this government has increased spending on child care at a compound annual rate of 36 per cent; that, with a \$121.3-million increase included in this budget, a total of \$300 million will be spent on child care in 1988-89.

People from Halton Centre know why the member for Nipissing is anxious that we do not refer to the record of the previous government in

delivering child care services. They know the previous government did not deliver.

Halton Centre is served by three local hospitals in Oakville, Burlington and Milton. Last June, two of these hospitals shared in announcements of new capital funding from the \$850-million multicapital plan which was introduced in the 1986 budget. The multi-year approach was heartily welcomed not only by hospitals in my region but by hospitals throughout the province, because it meant that for the first time an appropriate planning mechanism was put into place and it was readily measurable.

We are all familiar with pressures on our health care system, through advances in medical technology, changing demographics and increased demand for hospital services. It is clear that my honourable colleague's federal counterparts have added an additional pressure on health delivery in Ontario by reducing the rate of increases in federal transfers to the province. I expect the member for Nipissing does not want us to talk about that, either.

I have been struck, as I have been discussing these issues with people in and out of the health care field, by the enthusiasm people have to this government's approach in coming to terms with these health care pressures. They like the fact that the government is seriously examining how to develop productivity improvements and lower cost alternatives for health care while maintaining quality of service and accessibility, and they like the fact there is a get-tough approach in that examination and implementation.

Getting tough implies a discipline, not only in the central planning functions but in the broader sphere. It is no accident that the operating budget is in a surplus position this year. It is very much a part of the disciplined approach which the Treasurer has taken in every one of his budgets. It is no accident that provincial borrowing will be at its lowest point in close to two decades this year, and it is no accident that tax increases are contributing to a substantial decrease in the deficit. On the streets of Halton Centre, as in every community in Ontario, these actions matter. They are not only welcomed; indeed, that kind of discipline is demanded.

One initiative which has been particularly admired is the opening up of our lottery revenues for hospitals. With a name like Sullivan, I can barely avoid reference to the Irish sweepstakes which has made such a significant contribution to hospital funding in another jurisdiction. People know that this is an innovation here, and what I

have heard so far is merely the question, "Why was it not done before?"

As in other areas of Ontario, in Halton Centre there is an identified need for housing for low and moderate-income people. I am pleased to say that our regional government has established a nonprofit housing corporation and that many groups and organizations are coming forward as well to assist in meeting that need. Recent increases in the maximum unit prices for nonprofit housing construction in Halton communities, in Burlington, amounting to over 25 per cent, are very important to us. The track record of nonprofit projects in other areas, in terms of award-winning, attractive, architectural design which complements the community environs, are without question important considerations in finding community acceptance in established areas for new projects.

One extremely attractive provision in this budget is the opening of Canada pension plan funds to nonprofit housing groups, a creative way of reducing financing costs for organizations which are providing nonprofit units. Canada pension plan rates are historically one to two per cent below conventional mortgage rates. For those groups which are involved in making housing available for senior citizens, the disabled and families, this is an extremely important step. Along with many others in my riding, I am looking forward to our local organization sharing in that \$2-billion CPP funding availability.

I have a particular interest in the strength of our farming community. As a youth, I raised cattle in what is now Halton Centre and exhibited them in major shows both nationally and internationally. In Halton Centre, agriculture has changed significantly since my childhood days. The amount of farmland has shrunk while the extensive use of technology on the farms that are left has grown. Many of our farmers, often sons and daughters or grandchildren of the original farmers, worked land that is now owned by developers who are waiting for municipal plans to catch up with their particular vision of the future community. In a changing environment for agriculture, with a crisis in commodity prices, a need to adapt to new technology and a cash-flow crunch, one cannot help but be impressed with the fierce dedication of our farmers to stay in business and to stay in business successfully.

Farmers in Halton Centre are optimistic, and if once again I can refer to a figure that my honourable colleague the member for Nipissing does not want us to mention, farmers know that

the Liberal government has increased the agricultural budget by 86 per cent since his cohorts were making decisions. Tripartite stabilization, the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program, a revitalized emphasis on farm safety and land stewardship tell the tale of a government that is committed to stability and prosperity for our agricultural industry, and new programs such as the Food Systems 2002 program funded in this budget once again reiterate that we are looking at tomorrow as well as today.

That approach tells the tale of why the Toronto Star called this a Liberal budget, and those of us who were elected under that banner in September, whether as new or returning members, make no apologies for the fact that this is a Liberal budget. It takes tomorrow into account.

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In looking at the needs of tomorrow, the government is taking major steps to prepare for an altered trade environment by providing incentives to our business community to step up investment in research and development. New money has been allocated in both the public and private sectors, and out of this investment will come the technology, the trained people and the products which will keep us on a firm footing in the next phase of economic development. It will help us to improve technological innovation and introduce new production methods.

In short, these steps will assist Ontario business to be innovative, adaptable and entrepreneurial, and the business community in Halton Centre is very supportive of those initiatives.

A continuing healthy economic environment must provide the base so that we can guarantee a place for those who might not share in our good fortune, our vitality and our enterprise. This budget provides a solid base on which to move forward. It treats people with fairness and equity; it provides services and programs that are clearly needed; it has discipline, and it looks to the next generation.

In the budget text which he did not deliver to the House, the Treasurer concluded that public and private sector investments proposed in the budget are designed to keep Ontario dynamic, compassionate and competitive. They are fitting and elegant words to describe this year's budget and I conclude with them.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I would like to make just a brief comment. The honourable member, as she pointed out in her opening remarks, was the executive assistant to the new Treasurer three years ago. I just want to tell the honourable

members what a marvellous job she made of that very difficult assignment. As a matter of fact, she established, I would think, the smallest and lowest-paid but most effective ministerial staff in North America. It did not please them so much, but it is a fact.

Besides that, the honourable member's background was extremely useful under those circumstances and serves the people of the province and her constituency well in her elected capacity. She has had independent business and advisory responsibilities, but at least as important as that, she is, of course, the mother of—five? Four marvellous—

Mr. Breaugh: Maybe five.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: —I never was good with figures—and was able to balance her personal responsibilities with her professional responsibilities in an extremely advantageous and effective way.

Also, the constituency she represents is part-way through the transition from one of the best rural agricultural areas in Ontario to one of the most rapidly growing urbanizing ones and her background satisfies those requirements. For many years she was a junior farmer. As a matter of fact, she looks as if she would still qualify.

But besides that, she is of course very knowledgeable indeed in the modern issues of the day, and the topics that she selected for her excellent address simply underline those abilities.

Mr. Harris: I wanted to concur with the Treasurer's comments on the qualifications and the background of the member for Halton Centre. I wonder, though, given those qualifications and potential and background, why she read a drivelly speech that obviously somebody else wrote for her.

She mentioned Sheridan College and how this budget benefits it. I would like to ask her about Canadore College in North Bay, which has a food technicians course, or used to have. Students went there for one year. They are so short of money they are being told, "Sorry, we're cancelling the program." You have one year of nothing when you have one year of a two-year course. That is how severe the cutbacks are in the community colleges in North Bay.

Perhaps there are similar experiences being experienced at Sheridan College, which she mentioned. If not, maybe they are doing all right and the rest of the province is having problems.

She also mentioned that this is the fourth year of a similar direction of the three previous budgets. She was proud to be associated with the

other three, as she is of this one. I am just as pleased to indicate my total disdain for all four of these budgets and the massive double-digit, triple-digit spending that these budgets have brought in.

I would also ask her if she heard the Premier of New Brunswick, Mr. McKenna, in his comments that were made in Ontario two days ago, where he said, "David Peterson is a friend of mine, but..." He talked about fiscal policy; he talked about a balanced budget; he talked about wanting Ontario industries there. But he said this: "If you are looking for a government grant, we do not want you. That's not the philosophy this Liberal government in New Brunswick wants." Obviously, there are several Liberal philosophies—

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member's time is up.

Mr. Harris: —and, quite frankly, we are totally opposed to the one that is being presented here in Ontario.

Mr. Breagh: This is the honourable member's maiden speech, and I think normally we would hear these things much earlier in the year. I congratulate her for her tenacity in persevering through the suppression by her own caucus of her right to speak as a member. We have had an opportunity this afternoon finally to hear from her, and we are grateful for that.

I think as well that she is to be congratulated as one of the few people who have actually lived through the sad experience of being on the staff of the Treasurer of Ontario. It must have been a difficult and trying time in her life fetching all the chocolate bars for the Treasurer, as it is widely rumoured that is all his staff ever really do for him.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: One of her jobs was to get me to lose weight. You can just see how successful she has been.

Mr. Breagh: The Treasurer has just said that one of her jobs was to get him to lose weight, and as he shakes his jowls all over his chair, we have to admit at least one failure in her past work experience.

I want to congratulate her on finally letting slip one truth. This was indeed a Liberal budget and, oddly enough, it looks very much like a Tory budget. For those of us who have observed both kinds roll through here, the similarities are absolutely astonishing.

The Deputy Speaker: Do other members have questions and comments? If not, does the member for Halton Centre wish to respond?

Mrs. Sullivan: I am touched with the words of the Treasurer. I will not dwell on those words.

I would like to address one or two items that the member for Nipissing raised: in particular, the reaction of people from Sheridan College to the budget. Indeed, there was enormous enthusiasm—and I have spoken with those people—for the initiatives that are being taken in terms of technical training and the emphasis that is being put on skills for tomorrow. I will be meeting further with them and I know that they will be meeting with officials in the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. I believe this thrust is going to be very important at Sheridan College as well as at other community colleges. Indeed, in terms of the record of the four budgets, they were fair, equitable and fiscally responsible.

On that note, I will leave my response.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. As I should have recognized in the beginning a government speaker to complete the rotation as per the usual rotation, I will now ask a member from the third party caucus to speak, and we will revert afterwards to a Liberal, so that after four speakers, we will have retained our normal rotation.

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Mr. McLean: I am pleased to take part in this budget debate. I am also pleased to have the opportunity to discuss what I believe was one of the cruelest budgets ever brought down by a Treasurer of a Canadian province.

This government has a history of sticking it to the people of Ontario. We saw the government stick the financial knife in the backs of taxpayers in the past, and rather than remove this dangerous cutlery, the government decided instead to give the knife a little twist by increasing the sales tax by one percentage point, by increasing personal income taxes by two percentage points over two years, by increasing the so-called sin taxes and by increasing the tax on unleaded gasoline by one cent a litre and on leaded gas by three cents. This government has given the knife a substantial twist, and the people of Ontario will now be forced to sit back and watch as their pocketbooks and wallets bleed to death.

Last September, we watched in horror as Liberal candidates promised everything under the sun in an attempt to win a majority government in Ontario.

Interjection.

Mr. McLean: Well, they got that majority and the people of Ontario got \$1.3 billion.

The member for Lincoln (Mr. Pellisero) just said, "And it worked." Well, it did work, but this \$1.3 billion in tax increases is a backhanded way of saying thanks.

This budget is a clear indication to me that this government plans to continue with its policy of taxing and spending with a vengeance. Not once during last year's election campaign did we hear the Liberals use the term "tax increases," but we certainly heard it loud and clear on April 20, and it was louder and clearer than anyone could believe or ever wanted to hear.

Taken together, the increases in the personal income tax, the retail sales tax, the gasoline tax, the alcohol levies, the tobacco tax and the changes to corporate tax represent the single largest tax grab in the history of Ontario. The people at Earl's Shell will never forget the Treasurer for this.

This tax grab comes at a time when Ontario has been in a position of strong economic growth. For the past five years, since this government took office, it has had a cumulative increase of over \$29 billion in revenues to meet program needs and development. This is without taking into account the tax increases announced in the April 20 budget. Rather than getting involved in the largest tax grab in Ontario's history, the government should have taken the opportunity to cut taxes, not increase them.

There is so much to criticize in this budget and so little time in which to do so. The following are some of the areas which are of major concern to me, and I would like to spend a little time now in focusing attention on these issues.

Even without the tax grabs, Treasury revenues would have increased by 8.2 per cent. That translates into a massive \$2.8 billion over last year. In 1987, this government overspent its budget plan for the third consecutive year. In 1988 and 1989, government spending will increase by 8.6 per cent, and that rate is more than double the current rate of inflation. This government is taking credit for \$350 million in in-year savings last year, and it should be noted that what this government is really saying is that had it been more efficient, it would have spent even more than it had.

In the fiscal year, the government has created \$500 million in in-year savings and constraints to its expenditure account, which means that the \$473-million deficit is in reality a \$973-million deficit. The interest in this province is \$4 billion a year on the total cumulative debt. The Treasurer justified his tax increases by saying the money was needed for more schools, more roads, more

hospitals and more capital for universities, but the capital-spending increase for 1988-89 is about \$120 million after deductions for projects' in-year savings, or only 12.6 per cent of the total tax grab.

I would like to spend the remainder of my time enlarging on some of the concerns I have with this budget, but first I have a number of questions for the Treasurer which I do not believe he answered on April 20.

First, where is the allocation for the construction of an Oak Ridge facility in Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre, which has been promised by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) for two years now? There was no mention of this in the budget, yet two of this government's Health ministers have stated unequivocally that they support the construction of a new facility on the existing site in the town of Penetanguishene.

A report commissioned by the current Minister of Health has called Oak Ridge "an antiquated prison that is a relic of another age." This report notes that Oak Ridge was built in 1933 and modelled on a 1920-era prison; it goes on to say: "The urgency of building a new modern hospital cannot be stressed enough. The status quo is not only clinically unacceptable but fraught with danger."

Second, what has this budget done for the tourism and hospitality industry in Ontario? It has hurt this vibrant industry, which can generate unparalleled economic and employment opportunities, substantially reduce our provincial travel deficit and attract our rightful share of world travel and tourism revenues. This budget, with its enormous tax increases imposed on most Ontarians, will have a negative effect on this business. Leisure, travel and vacation people in our province will be affected, and this cost-sensitive industry will be one of the first to bear the brunt of the economic downturn which I believe this budget virtually guarantees.

The Ontario government, through this budget, neutralized many of the positive benefits of stage one of federal tax reform for taxpayers and businesses and has placed numerous Ontario tourism and hospitality enterprises at an even worse competitive disadvantage with the bordering American states.

The increase in the personal income tax rates, the net increase of 14 per cent in the provincial sales tax rate and the escalation of levies and taxes on beverage alcohol and gasoline will discourage consumption of the products and services offered by the tourism and hospitality

industry and nonessential travel by the tourism and hospitality industry within Ontario.

In my view, these unprecedented tax increases in excess of \$1 billion are unnecessary, regressive and inflationary. Ontario has enjoyed a 53 per cent increase in tax revenues during the past four years. During the same period, the province has increased its spending by 9.5 per cent annually, or more than double the federal rate. Surely this spending can and must be curtailed.

The Ontario tourism and hospitality industry generated an estimated \$9.3 billion in expenditures during 1987, or six per cent of the gross provincial product. It is the largest employer in the service sector, accounting for 402,000 full-year-equivalent jobs in 1985. This industry is the province's second largest export industry, producing an estimated \$2.9 billion in valuable foreign exchange earnings in 1987.

While I am on the subject of tourism, I would like to talk once again about the tax increase on gasoline, because it affects many more people than those who drive automobiles. Many of the tourism and hospitality operators in Ontario, like many of those in Simcoe East, offer boats for fishing or cruising, and these vessels operate on the same gasoline that the government is increasing taxes on. This means many potential tourists and fishermen will be reluctant to rent boats because the cost of operating them will be too high a financial burden to bear. In the long run, it will be the tourism and hospitality operators who will suffer, because they will be taking the flak for this increased cost. Many potential customers will turn up their noses, and that means the loss of badly needed business.

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My next question deals with the unprecedented increase in sales tax, from seven per cent to eight per cent. What does this do to the purchasing power of the average Ontarian, and what will it do to the sale of goods in this province? I know of one example personally where someone was going to purchase a new car next month. Now he is confronted with approximately \$200 added to the final price tag, just because of the one per cent increase in the sales tax in Ontario. Are we going to see more and more people holding off on major purchases, or are we going to see manufacturers suffering because people decline to buy their products because of sales tax hikes they just cannot afford?

This is the first increase in the retail sales tax since 1973, and I defy the government to justify this increase at this time. When the retail sales tax increases on May 2, it will result in this

government raising an additional \$820 million in the fiscal year and \$986 million in a full year. This increase is expected to cost a married couple earning \$35,000 with two children a minimum of an additional \$112.

With this budget, the government has raised the personal income tax rate twice since taking office. In 1988, the personal income tax rate will be increased from 50 per cent of base federal to 51 per cent of base federal. In 1989 that rate will increase a further one per cent to 52 per cent.

When you stop and think about it, during this term of office this government has increased the personal income tax rate by 8.3 per cent, from 48 per cent to 52 per cent, and the proposed increase in the personal income tax rate will reduce by more than half the benefits which otherwise would have accrued to Ontario taxpayers as a result of the federal tax reform.

In addition, a 10 per cent surtax is imposed on individuals earning more than \$85,000, to raise an additional \$52 million this year. The personal income tax increase, combined with the surtax, will raise an additional \$272 million in 1988-89 and \$286 million in a full year.

Paralleling federal corporate income tax changes will raise an additional \$80 million for the province in 1988-89, offset in part by a number of changes which will cost \$51 million, producing a net of \$29 million in new revenues in that area.

Levies will increase on spirits, wine and beer effective May 24, to generate an additional \$62 million this fiscal year. These new tax increases include an increase of eight cents—from 10 cents to 18 cents—in the levy applied to each 750-millilitre bottle of spirits or wine and to each 12-pack of beer, an increase of two percentage points from 21.2 to 23.2 in the manufacturer's licence fee on the production of domestic beer for sale in Ontario and a two-percentage-point increase in the markup on imported beer.

Effective midnight on April 20, the tobacco tax was increased by one cent per cigarette to 3.83 cents per cigarette and by 0.6 cents per gram of cut tobacco to 2.2 cents for each gram. This measure is expected to raise \$158 million in additional revenues in this fiscal year alone.

I have outlined some of the areas where this government has increased taxes substantially because it claims the money is needed for more schools, more roads, more hospitals and more capital for hospitals, but there is nothing in the budget that indicates to me that more money has been allotted for more schools and more hospitals and more roads and more capital for universities.

I would like to take this time to point out the failings of this government in a number of areas. It may take some time, but the first area I would like to look at is our elementary and secondary education system in Ontario.

It should be noted that the operating and capital expenditures in the April 20 budget were actually announced earlier. Operating expenditures were announced last fall and capital expenditures were announced last spring.

The capital allocation for schools this year is \$238 million, of which \$11 million is to cover previously announced programs to put day care centres in schools, and the remaining money is for new school construction, renovations and repairs.

Points of interest in the budget relating to education include the fact the school boards requested in excess of \$1 billion in capital funds for 1988-89. The Ministry of Education declared \$900 million of the request as "educationally justifiable," which I think is ministry gobbledegook for "needed." According to the April 20 budget, school boards in Ontario will receive \$226.4 million or approximately 25 per cent of what they asked for.

It is interesting to note that the previous speaker indicated there is more money going into education in the area where she is from than there ever had been in the previous government: 25 per cent of the whole budget. I remember back a few years ago when the province was paying 50 per cent of the education costs. The present government had indicated it would increase that to 60 per cent. I find now that it has decreased to approximately 42 per cent.

Interestingly enough, the picture for the post-secondary education system in Ontario is just about as bleak as the elementary and secondary school system. Excluding funds earmarked for special purposes, university-based operating grants will increase by only 4.5 per cent this year. As a result, the Council of Ontario Universities is predicting that 10 per cent of all qualified applicants will not find a place in Ontario's universities this fall. Last year's accessibility fund did not prevent five per cent of all qualified applicants from being turned away, and this year's \$38-million fund will probably be just as successful.

In summary, this budget was a shocker that is aimed at bleeding the taxpayers of Ontario so that this government can continue its record of spend, spend, spend and spend again. Like many people of this province, I cannot believe this government would introduce a budget that basically

shifted around the pre-promised money for services, put an extra burden on the taxpayer and threatened to slow this government's economic growth.

This government's pledges, contained in the April 20 budget, to education, health, roads and other services or programs are, in reality, only about the same or slightly higher than existing funding levels from this government. What we got is increased taxes to generate revenue needed to offset the growth in the bureaucracy and the commissioning of scores of expensive studies, reports, reviews and commissions.

The problem with this budget lies in the fact that this government has hired almost 6,000 new civil servants, and there are two or three studies being undertaken by each ministry. That costs millions of dollars, and it is a clear indication to me that we are getting far more government than we want or need. Someone has to pay for all this, and unfortunately, this government is putting the squeeze on the wallets and purses of the people in Penetanguishene, the people of Gingersnap Junction, the people in Orillia and the people of other villages and hamlets, from the cities and from the towns and from the city of Toronto. No one will escape the sticky fingers of this government as it pilfers more and more money from the people of Ontario through increased taxation.

This government is taking advantage of Ontario's strong economy to increase taxes and spending. Despite six years of uninterrupted economic growth and expansion, the deficit continues to rise. The alternative was rejected because this government has to pay for all the bills that have resulted from expensive election promises. It should be noted that when the price of everything is raised, as this government has with this budget, it stands accused of deliberately creating inflation. That is just simple arithmetic. That is a dangerous thing to do, especially in a booming economy that could, with intelligent and prudent care, have provided ample funds without slamming the people of Ontario with higher taxes.

In Ontario, 75 per cent of school buses use leaded gas. The Treasurer has increased the cost to the taxpayers of this province drastically by increasing the price of fuel by approximately 18 cents per gallon, an increase which other governments have been defeated on. The school boards right across this province will have drastically increased costs by that extra funding revenue that is going on the gasoline tax.

1650

The other industry that is going to feel it substantially is the trucking industry. Over 50 per cent of all the transports on the road today use leaded fuel, and it is a substantial increase to them. Not only to them, but there are many farmers in this province who have tractors and trucks that use regular fuel and who are being pressured and now have to pay that extra 18 cents a gallon for their fuel.

Not only that, but the Ontario Federation of Agriculture president, Brigid Pyke herself, is not all that enthusiastic about the budget. She is not very pleased about it. She has said that.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak briefly on the budget that was presented on April 20. I know that the people of Ontario will have a lot more to say about it before it is finally approved. It is one of the most drastic budgets that I have ever seen brought forward in this province.

I have always trusted Farmer Bob for good management and good foresight. However, I do believe that there were other people who drafted this budget and who indicated that the spending of this government has to be met by increased taxation. The Treasurer should have been more fiscally responsible. He should have had better management, paid off the deficit and looked after the costs as they occur and not as he anticipates.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I want to thank the honourable member for his comments. I think there were a few positive suggestions in there about the fiscal policy of the province, but his references to the gas tax concern me, because he is a very strong Progressive Conservative. I do not think I can find anything shaky in his antecedents. I cannot remember when he was a Liberal. Maybe his mamma was or something like that. He is a good Tory, but it is the Tories in Ottawa who have increased their gasoline tax here.

As a matter of fact, Michael Wilson raised the gas tax one cent a litre on January 1 this year, and he raised it 1.1 cent a litre on April 1 this year. That raised the federal tax on gasoline in the province to almost 10 cents a litre, about 9.9 cents. Our tax is 9.3 cents. To tell the truth, this increase at the federal level took place in just three years. During the same period of time, with increases in the federal sales tax, the Department of Finance in Ottawa has increased the revenue out of Ontario by about \$1.6 billion.

The honourable members opposite are talking about the biggest tax grab in history and saying I am responsible, even though that is factually

incorrect. In fact, the federal initiatives in these three years alone have been larger than this increase. That is why I am not so concerned when people on the other side say that these are inflationary and do not fit in with federal policies. I think if tax increases are inflationary, it is the federal policies we must be concerned with, because we have reduced our deficit to the lowest level in 19 years. That really takes the pressure off inflation, and therefore it is something that even the honourable members opposite, including the budgetary critic, who is now galloping in to take his place, should be prepared to support.

Mr. Ferraro: I want to say to my friend across the way that I enjoyed listening to his speech as well, but I have a question. As a member of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, as is the member for Nipissing, during our preparation of a paper, if you will, to the Treasurer on recommendations for the budget, members should know that we received requests from different sectors—whether it was hospitals, education or so forth—over and above present expenditures, capital allocations in excess of \$14 billion.

This is \$14 billion above the then roughly \$36-billion budget. We had to deal with that. When you take that into consideration with the fact that the Treasurer indicated the federal government indeed is not only taxing us to death on gas but reducing the increased amount of transfer payments to us something to the tune of \$2 billion over the next couple of years, and add that to Treasury's saying that we are going to have continued strong growth in Ontario, roughly 2.5 per cent from the period of 1989-91, although inflation is going to be 4.7 per cent, you are left with a predicament that the Treasurer and the government have to deal with.

You can deal with it only this way, considering that the pie is only so big: You either have increased taxes, which the member and his party object to and say is totally wrong; or you add to the deficit, and the Treasurer has already indicated that with this budget increase in taxes, the deficit is going to go down a further \$750 million to the lowest deficit in 19 years, \$473 million; or indeed you have the final alternative, and that is to cut services to the 9.2 million people in Ontario.

Take that in conjunction with the fact that we have had an influx of 110,000 new citizens to Ontario. I ask my friend the member, what services would he cut to those 9.2 million people?

Mr. Harris: I want to say how much I enjoyed the remarks that were made by the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean). He is certainly a member who has a great grasp and understanding of how budgets affect the average person in his riding, certainly the average farmer. He, like the member for Halton Centre, is a family man. He has several children, I know. I just thought I would throw that in. It seemed to be the order of the day to talk about everybody's family. I know that gives him an appreciation of what it is like to try to struggle along with a family. Is it four children?

Mr. McLean: Four.

Mr. Harris: Count them, four.

The member for Guelph (Mr. Ferraro) talked about capital allocations. I heard his remarks; I was in the back listening to them. He talked about there being no new capital. I was surprised at a member of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs talking about the \$14-billion requests for capital, yet the capital allocation, if the Treasurer wants to check his two page 50s, from this budget and the last budget, is up only \$100 million of the \$3-billion increase.

The member also talked about Oak Ridge hospital in his riding. I wonder if the member could comment. We have a situation in Nipissing where they have been waiting for capital allocation for a combined hospital which would save on the operating cost. That is where you spend capital. You spend capital to save on the operating, yet there has been virtually a less-than-inflation increase in the capital allocation. It is an embarrassment for this Treasurer, and I wonder if he can explain that.

Mr. McLean: I can say to the member for Guelph that when the government wants to save some money, it could save it by being more responsible. It has hired almost 6,000 new civil servants. It has hired all kinds of studies. It has consultants, lawyers and all kinds of professional people running around this province doing studies. It has increased the executive assistants' salaries from \$40,000 to \$60,000 or \$70,000. It has increased the deputy ministers' from about \$78,000 up to about \$110,000. If it wants to talk about saving a few dollars, the government had better start with its own civil service.

It is interesting to note, talking about tax reform, that in 1985, the Treasurer had 19 tax increases. In the 1987 budget, he did not increase taxes any and they say, "Well, we need more money." If he was so interested in doing it gradually, why did he not put a tax on last year?

He brought a budget in with not one tax increase. Is that being fiscally responsible? I think that is what is called playing games with the public, conning them so they will vote for this government. It worked, but I am going to tell members, what happened in Manitoba yesterday is exactly caused by Ontario. They saw what happened here with this budget on April 20. They do not want to see another majority government anywhere in Canada. They are sick and tired of majority governments. They saw what happened here. They are just taking the taxpayers right to the cleaners.

I want to remind the Treasurer that this is the very same Treasurer who said in 1973—in fact, the last time the tax was raised, to seven from five per cent, in 1973, the Liberals railed at the regressive nature of the tax increase, because it would unfairly hit the poor harder than those on high incomes. I want to remind the Treasurer of what he said at that time. Does he know what he said? "We should go to the people to decide in fact whether they are satisfied with the care"—

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The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order.

Mr. McLean: —"or whether we should continue spending. We need an election on this budget."

Ms. Hart: It is with great pleasure that I rise to participate in the budget debate.

Mr. Harris: It's our pleasure to listen to you.

Ms. Hart: Thank you.

Ontario is currently in its sixth year of strong economic performance, and current indications are that this trend will continue, at least for the next year. Inflation is expected to remain low, the unemployment rate is at its lowest point since 1974 and housing starts are expected to remain high. All in all, the picture appears rather rosy, the perfect setting for a steady-as-she-goes budget.

But the Treasurer has clearly not taken that course. Instead, he has chosen to take an aggressive approach in his budget, and I applaud the Treasurer for his foresight. He has realized that today's prosperity is a transient thing whose presence cannot be taken for granted. The world is a rapidly changing place, and therefore we must be prepared to direct this province into new productive areas. The Premier's Council report on technology has already pointed out the path to take, and this budget, with its incentives for expenditures in research and development, takes the first steps towards a more secure economic future.

Preparing for the future involves more than just setting an economic course. Without the ingenuity of the people of Ontario to drive the economy and to help the environment to sustain it, even the best-laid economic plans are doomed to failure. Economic prosperity is a double-edged sword. It makes life more enjoyable for many people, but it also draws people from less prosperous areas hoping that they might participate in this province's success. This places a tremendous burden on social systems such as education, health care and affordable housing, because they are unable to handle the rapid rise in demand. I am not saying that I disapprove of people moving to Ontario, particularly since I fit into that category myself. I am simply pointing out that there is a price for economic prosperity. This budget makes a serious start at relieving some of the pressure on the system, but true solutions cannot be expected overnight.

Because of my own special interest, I would like to say a few words about what this budget does for the environment. I am a fervent believer that the maintenance of a strong economy is dependent, in the long run, on a healthy and well-managed environment. This was the message of the universally heralded and respected Brundtland report to the United Nations, released just one year ago, and the Treasurer's budget clearly demonstrates that our government is firmly committed to this principle. The Ministry of the Environment's budget for 1988 has risen nine per cent, to \$426 million. That is an increase of 51 per cent since 1985. This increase is being channelled into programs designed to meet the specific challenges that we in Ontario face today.

For example, funding for the LifeLines program is increased to \$12 million this year to help municipalities evaluate and rehabilitate deteriorating underground sewer and water infrastructure. In many of the world's major centres, infrastructure deterioration has reached crisis proportions, thus creating some serious health hazards. Once deterioration reaches this stage, rehabilitation is impossible, and the system must be replaced. By looking forward and anticipating the effect that future growth and the passage of time will have upon the system, this government will be able to prevent this crisis and reduce the overall costs of maintaining our sewer systems.

A case in point is the \$5.95 million of funding provided by the Ministry of the Environment to my own municipality of East York to upgrade its badly decayed sewers. The expenditure of these moneys will have the additional salutary effect of

substantially abating the summer pollution of Toronto's beaches by storm water runoff.

When one speaks of an environmental crisis, especially in southern Ontario, one cannot help but think of garbage. This is an indication of what can happen if we choose to ignore the kinds of early warnings that led this government to propose the LifeLines program.

Although the disposal of garbage is a municipal matter, we must pull together and create solutions that are more than just short-term, Band-Aid avoidance tactics. We must change our approach to garbage in order to encourage greater recycling, reduction, reuse and recovery.

Towards this end, the Ministry of the Environment has allotted \$22.9 million to assist municipalities in dealing with their garbage disposal problems. This represents a 205 per cent increase over last year's level of funding. In addition, municipal curbside recycling funding was increased to \$7.7 million, up from \$5.7 million in the previous year.

In the area of water pollution control, the Treasurer in his budget has indicated that MISA, the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement, marks the way for the future.

In a world where technological advances are developed at an ever increasing pace, across-the-board regulations are no longer feasible. Variation between sectors can be enormous. Therefore, effective pollution control must take into account the technological capability of each sector to reduce its own emissions.

At the same time, the ability of the surrounding environment to assimilate pollution must also be taken into account. It is useless to place controls on a pollution source if the allowable limits still destroy the environment. If the plant cannot operate in harmony with the environment, then its technology must be changed for it to remain.

MISA responds to both of these problems. Rapid advances in technologies, both between and within sectors, are incorporated into sector-specific best available technologies. In addition, regulations based on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters will be enforced if emission levels are still too high.

The Treasurer has ensured that MISA will be able to proceed in an effective manner by increasing funding to \$15.2 million, an increase of 77 per cent. This will allow the ministry to take significant steps towards its goal of improved water quality.

Many of our initiatives and programs depend upon a co-operation between officials at the

Ministry of the Environment and representatives in industry. The ministry must be able to check the accuracy of industry data as well as to enforce the regulations of the province. For these reasons, the Treasurer has increased the number of staff in the investigations and enforcement branch by 34, bringing the total to 107. This fulfils the first half of an election promise to double the ministry's enforcement staff in two years.

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The environment provides the essential raw materials necessary for sustained economic prosperity. It also has a recreational function that may be our only respite from a stress-filled world. For many people, one of the most cherished summertime activities is still a visit to the beach. Unfortunately, a number of Ontario's beaches, especially those near urban centres on Lake Ontario, are forced to close during the height of the season because of poor water quality. In response to the need to provide Ontarians with good, safe, recreational water, the Treasurer has doubled the funding for beach cleanup from \$15 million to \$30 million per year for a five-year period.

This money will go towards water quality studies, as well as improvements to sewer infrastructure. In total, this budget represents an increase of \$35.4 million for environmental programs in Ontario. That is up 9.1 per cent over the previous year and up 51 per cent since 1985. This is clearly a government for which the environment is a very high priority.

Members will remember that I earlier spoke of the double-edged sword of prosperity. It is clear that the rapid influx of people from other parts of the country and beyond has caused a serious strain on our health care, education and affordable housing systems, just to mention a few. With the persistent calls from many quarters for immediate action in all these areas simultaneously, it would have been easy for the Treasurer to neglect the environment, but he did not. He did not because he realized how important a healthy environment is to a healthy Ontario.

At the same time, he realized that a successful future for Ontario depends upon proper government today, a government that takes steps to repair and update our ageing infrastructure of hospitals, schools and roads and to expand it in areas of pressing need. The Treasurer showed this foresight in seeking greater revenues to accomplish these goals now, while the economy is strong. He has also significantly reduced the

budget deficit so as not to burden future generations with our current expenditures.

The Treasurer has also introduced a special levy of three cents per litre on leaded gasoline to discourage its use over unleaded gasoline. The deleterious effects of lead on the central nervous systems of children have been clearly documented, and future generations will therefore benefit by the reduced use of this toxin.

I believe I could be legitimately accused of avoiding contentious issues if I did not speak directly to the issue of tax increases. Yes, there are significant increases in the amount of tax taken in by the Treasurer, but as I mentioned before, the costs of prosperity can be equally significant.

In the areas of environmental protection and improvement affected by this budget, survey after survey has indicated a willingness by the people of this province to pay significant sums of money if the result is a cleaner and safer environment. Surely, the same can be said for health care, education and housing. What Ontarians want from their provincial government is good, sound management. This requires not only the prudent administration of today's programs, but also creating the base for a fiscally secure future. We all very much want our children to grow up in an Ontario that will be as prosperous as the one we live in today. I believe many will agree with me that the Treasurer has launched us on that road.

Mr. Harris: I want to congratulate the member for York East on her pitch for the Environment portfolio when the new shuffle comes up. Given the performance we have seen in the Legislature since the September 10 election, I am sure the shake-up is coming very soon. I do not want to name names because, as members know, it is not my nature or my wont to get into personalities, but I think anybody who has observed the Ontario scene since the September 10 election will know that there is probably in excess of half the cabinet who do not deserve to be there.

I want to say that I thought it was a good pitch, a strong pitch from the member for York East, and I understand her concern, particularly with what has been happening in the environment. Hopefully, if the Premier ever reads the speech—unfortunately, he does not come in to listen to his back-benchers in the chamber, so I understand why she would want to put forward her concerns with the environment. We too have concerns with the environment. While it is one thing to applaud the Treasurer for putting money into the

environment, that truly is not the solution to the problem, as the member knows, and I think that is why she focused in on some areas.

I might ask her if she has had any answers why the superfund that was promised in 1985 as the key environmental program put forward by the government has never been implemented. Not one cent has been put into it yet.

Mr. Runciman: I might make a brief comment about the fact that the member, during the time I was able to hear her comments, failed to mention the rather cursory way in which the Treasurer treated eastern Ontario. He virtually ignored it in respect of the budget.

An hon. member: Forty-seven thousand jobs last year.

Mr. Runciman: Yes. I guess we would like to know where those 47,000 jobs are in eastern Ontario. We have a real problem with how this Treasurer defines eastern Ontario, where he is running the boundaries.

Mr. Villeneuve: East of Yonge Street.

Mr. Runciman: I think so.

When we take a look at not only the budget but the education capital allocations, it is obvious there really is no understanding or appreciation of the very valid and legitimate problems that exist in many of the areas of eastern Ontario, and we are not talking about Kingston township or the Ottawa-Carleton region.

Let us take a look at the remainder of eastern Ontario. Obviously, there are a number of spots in eastern Ontario that are doing reasonably well, but by and large, we in that sector of the province are not enjoying the prosperity that southwestern Ontario is enjoying. I urge the Treasurer, at some point in the near future, to take a look at what is occurring in eastern Ontario. He should get a couple of people from that region into the cabinet who will adequately represent it and voice the concerns of those people.

Mr. Villeneuve: Not just lipservice.

Mr. Runciman: Right. He should do away with lipservice and let us see some action for the people of eastern Ontario.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am sorry that I missed just a part of the speech of the member for York East, but I want to congratulate her for her perceptive review of the budgetary initiatives. I certainly appreciate an objective approach to these issues. Not all the members of the Legislature know that the honourable member had a distinguished career as an attorney specializing in transportation law, and although she is well-known among the cognoscenti in this

area, I thought it should be brought to the attention of the honourable members. With the reallocation of additional funds for Ontario's highways, there is no wonder that she is particularly interested in that aspect, as well as the broad advances brought forward in the budget.

It is interesting to note that while there were minor increases in gasoline taxes in certain special areas, still, diesel fuel stayed just where it was, at the relatively low level, which is an encouragement to truck transportation, which is so essential to the economy of the whole province. Eastern Ontario, particularly, has benefited from this, as well as the allocation of an additional \$100 million this year over and above the very generous allocation for highways, because we understand how important that is to all of the province, but particularly to the east. The budget has an array of programs that are beneficial to communities in eastern Ontario and the whole province.

The member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman), who was just complaining about that, is no doubt aware of the recent allocation of an additional \$237 million for school capital. We are very proud we were able to do this, particularly to benefit the eastern part of the province.

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Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I must, of course, pay tribute to the speaker who touched on the subject of the environment. I was prompted, because of comments made about various members of the cabinet, to share with people here how important the environmental question is and that the budget is going to play an important role in this very important initiative.

I am standing in my place because I took a bit of an exception to the the member from the other side suggesting that half of the cabinet should not be there. I interjected a comment, but I should not just interject. I should get up and put on the record that in the last election the people obviously decided that none of the cabinet from the other side should be there. That is the result of that election.

To question the integrity of this government regarding the environment is something I take exception to, because this particular minister is doing more to protect the environment of Ontario, more of an initiative than was ever seen by the former government; indeed, I would suggest across Canada or all of North America. He is doing a job that we in this government can be proud of. I am very pleased that the member

has spoken to this issue and that the Treasurer has seen fit to inject huge sums of money into that, because the people of Ontario feel the environment is a very high priority and this government is responding to that in this budget.

As I have said before, I think the record speaks for itself. I would hope one of the most forceful governments in the world, in the United States, would listen to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) of Ontario and respond to the request to stop polluting the air with acid gas emissions that are causing us great pain to the lakes of the province and the trees in the areas in which I am very interested.

Ms. Hart: I would like to thank all the honourable members for their comments. I am particularly heartened to hear the comments of the member for Nipissing and the member for Leeds-Grenville, because as I indicated in my speech, and I believe very strongly, we all have to work together to clean up our environment.

I ask them for their help in speaking to the industries in their ridings by telling them that when they are making a change in their processes, they should think about the environmental damage that comes from one process or another. It is easy to persuade people who are given the appropriate information to make the environmentally correct decision. I welcome their assistance in that, and the assistance of all the honourable members.

With reference to eastern Ontario, may I say that the programs in the Ministry of the Environment spread across all of Ontario. They are not limited to Metropolitan Toronto. The new programs in enforcement, in cleaning up the beaches, in water quality, are all completely enforced in eastern Ontario, as they are right here in Metropolitan Toronto.

The spills bill is a very important initiative. I worked on that before I came to this House. It has proved very effective to have spills reported so they can be dealt with in an appropriate manner. In fact, I have made inquiries recently to find out how effective it is, and both the truckers and the ministry officials have been saying it is one of the most effective pieces of legislation that was ever passed.

The Acting Speaker: Would any other honourable member wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Mackenzie: I rise to participate in this budget debate in a laid-back mood, if I can generate it, I guess, but with both some sadness and some anger: sadness that we are not as a government moving in a direction of fairness,

equity, and justice in our tax system, that we have not recognized as a priority in a civilized society the hopes and needs of ordinary citizens in Ontario.

Even more so, we have not recognized the very real needs of the disadvantaged in our communities, the disabled, the handicapped, the poor, those on fixed and low incomes and those getting by on the various kinds of assistance programs; yes, and that rapidly growing portion of our population, our older citizens on pensions, who have made their contribution to our great province throughout their lifetime and are rewarded in this budget, as far as I can see, with a good swift kick in the teeth. They get almost nothing in the way of tax relief or recognition for their contribution.

My anger, which I at times have difficulty in controlling, stems from the realization that in spite of its claims to openness and concern for the disadvantaged, on the one hand, and for the large group that we could call the middle-class wage earners, on the other, this government has simply in this budget underlined the truth of a very old saying, that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

This government has become the master, as far as I am concerned, of talking out of both sides of its mouth, the master of saying one thing and doing the opposite, the master of making promises that it obviously has no intention of fulfilling. We have seen a string of election promises that were broken and I intend to deal with a few more here in terms of this budget. Sometimes it seems they were broken almost with relish, and now we have a budget that makes a mockery of the strident and forcefully presented arguments against unfair methods of taxation made by the Premier and the Treasurer when they were in opposition, arguments now tossed out of the window when they have absolute power in this House.

Do they really believe that this kind of hypocrisy, this kind of fooling the public, fooling the good citizens of Ontario—do they really believe that the large majority given to them at the polls justifies this kind of an approach to the people in Ontario, the arrogance that seems to have rushed in with this government? The only reason they need to renege on positions they articulated before the people of Ontario before the election is the fact that they now have 94 seats in the House. A large majority, absolute power, is not and can never become a substitute for honesty and commitment to principles and positions argued before the voters of Ontario.

Yes indeed, as far as I am concerned, this government deserves the anger of the citizens of Ontario and I think it should bow its head in shame. It has quickly forgotten the basic tenets of honesty and commitment to the people who elected it. It seems sad that we got rid of an insensitive majority of Conservatives in this House, the majority we had from 1981 to 1985, only to have them replaced with an even more insensitive majority of conservatives called Liberals.

I suppose there is one positive in this whole mess, the proof it provides the voters of the merits of minority government in place of majority government, the hard evidence it provides that the commitment and the push for most of the more responsible initiatives the government had from 1985 to 1987 required, it seems, the New Democratic Party as the push on this side. That was more fundamental, it appears, than any principles this government seems to hold.

I find it sad that we have a government now that seems to be controlled, as my colleague the member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan) says, by the emperor and his court of three advisers on the front bench and supported by a cabinet that appears to me to be largely yes-men and yes-women. I am not sure where their principles are in terms of the promises they have made on some of the issues in the past. They have obviously got a whole contingent of back-benchers who desperately want to be liked and hope to move up to the cabinet where the perks are.

I think my colleague the member for Nipissing was a little bit unkind when he said that half the ministers deserve to go. We have got it down to about five who are likely to be appointed in the next round and five who are likely to go. Mind you, we figure there are about 15 who desperately want in but are not likely to make it in the next round.

The difficulty I find with the back-benchers on the Liberal side is that they do not seem to have the courage or the conviction to question the betrayal of some of the promises that have been made or to challenge the unfairness to the people of Ontario. They do not have the perception to realize the arrogance and corruption of power that seem to be taking place in this House.

I find it very much now like it was right after the 1981 election and I find that disturbing. It may be hard for some people to understand, but it certainly does not give people in this House a feeling that once there is a huge majority, there is

much use in trying to have any real input into the kind of legislation that comes before the House.

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The Tories always used to have the odd red Tory. I know they were reviled by some of the members in the Tory caucus, but it gave them a little bit of balance. They are all now long gone, of course, in that caucus. What bothers me also is that I cannot find a single really progressive spirit in the new horde of blues, sporting occasional red ties, that seem to have filled this chamber.

Mr. Runciman: Let's introduce him to Ian Scott after.

Mr. Mackenzie: I would not call him a progressive at all.

I do not intend to go into great detail on the various regressive tax increases, but it is useful, I think, to outline the main concerns and then add my own comments.

The most regressive tax of all, of course, is the retail sales tax, increased to eight per cent. This tax takes more out of the wallet of a senior, a worker, those on ordinary, fixed incomes or even middle incomes, than it does of the wealthy. It has never been known as a progressive tax.

It is one, I am sad to say, that I predicted and predicted with the media. Immediately following the budget, I had one of the reporters back to me who said, "Well, you were dead on in what you thought the Treasurer was going to do with the sales tax." I could see that when we had the lunch with him in our standing committee on finance and economic affairs, when he told us with some relish, although assuring us also that that was not necessarily the route he was going, of the vast sums of money—I think he put it at just short of \$1 billion, which is about what it is for one full year—that could be made out of a one-cent, across-the-board increase in sales taxes. It was obvious to me at that point that the Treasurer had pretty well made up his mind where he was going with that particular tax.

I think it is unfortunate, because somebody who is making \$40,000 or \$50,000 or all the way down is going to pay more, once again, on that tax than somebody who is making \$80,000 or \$90,000 or \$100,000. It is going to cost him more, it is going to cost him a larger percentage of his pay packet.

I think the comments of my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and his quoting of the Treasurer's own remarks back in 1982 are very apropos, and I want to repeat them once again, if I can. I think there is a lead-in here which is useful to it:

"When I look at the federal tax regime for a moment, I think of the 20 per cent of the tax savings from Michael Wilson's tax reform that is going to go to the top two per cent of families with incomes over \$100,000 a year. Michael Wilson's intentions, which were endorsed by the Treasurer, are to move further away from income tax as a means of generating revenue and to rely more heavily on the most regressive of all taxes, the sales tax.

"...the Canadian reliance on sales taxes at both the federal and provincial levels is truly frightening. Nearly 35 per cent of total revenues in Canada are raised from taxes on goods and services, compared with only 17 per cent in the United States...and an average of 29 per cent in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries..."

"It is actually quite unbelievable that this government introduced a \$900-million increase in the sales tax, a move which is nothing but a cheap tax grab directed at those who are least able to pay."

This is the same government that protested so strongly when the Conservatives were in power and increased the sales tax in 1982 by \$340 million, just one third of what this government has grabbed, and it was that party that was screaming blue murder about it.

"They protested so much that they walked out of the Legislature for four days and left the bells ringing."

This is the same government that complains about people using tactics in the House.

This is the same government whose Premier (Mr. Peterson) and Treasurer said in the past: "I am truly galled that while individuals continue to pay sales tax on more and more goods and services, businesses, as is so often the case, continue to pay less than their fair share. While Ontarians who cannot afford a new pair of shoes must pay sales tax on the cost of repairs to the old shoes, as well as the cost of repairs on their appliances and cars, there continues to be a whole range of business services" which is now exempt from the seven per cent retail sales tax, including management, consulting, engineering services, architectural services, advertising and stock brokerage commissions. A tax on these services would generate \$300 million, or more than twice the amount of revenue required to exempt families living below the poverty line from Ontario income tax, a subject I will come back to later.

Those are comments that came from the leadership of that party back in 1982, and I

wonder where it is now when it is doing the same thing in spades to the people of Ontario.

Families, young and old, and certainly all of our seniors, know what this tax does to them, and there are very few who will appreciate this government's priority on whom to tax and how to tax.

Second, the one-cent-a-litre increase on gasoline taxes, over four cents a gallon: it is not hard to understand, as my northern colleagues have made the point, that they are going to have to pay more because of distances, and the fact also that this tax will take a larger portion out of the budget of most of those who are at the lower income levels than it will out of those who are at the higher income levels.

Once again, it is an unfair tax that is probably reaching the saturation point. Considering that so much of our prosperity in Ontario does depend on transportation and the ability for people to move around, whether jobwise, for recreation or in terms of our recreation industry, which fuels our economy, this may be, in the long run, a negative tax, or a tax that is going to cost more than the government is going to gain out of it.

Third, we have the increase in personal income tax. The principle of this we support. The problem is that this is on the so-called reformed federal income tax, so it will not necessarily mean a tax increase in all cases.

I will have less comment or concern with respect to the sin taxes: alcohol and tobacco.

The lack of progressivity is compounded by the lack of real offsets, as well as the failure to deal with the obvious loopholes and unfairness of some of the taxes, or lack thereof, in Ontario.

It is interesting to note that corporations were not taxed, not even a minimum tax so that the major companies would not get off scot-free, as is the case for some of them at present. The current budget has no increases for corporation taxes, continuing the smaller and smaller share percentage-wise of our revenues that they are paying. Indeed, they get a variety of different additional tax breaks.

I think my colleague made this point well in his release of 1988, and I want to add a comment of mine to that as well, when he talked about making the poor people pay.

Today in the Legislature I asked the Treasurer who should pay the most income tax and who did pay the most tax for 1986: an Ontario family of four with a 1986 income of \$21,705—in other words, living at the poverty line—or Brascan Ltd., an Ontario-based corporation with 1986 profits of \$136.8 million; or the Cadillac

Fairview Corp., an Ontario-based corporation with 1986 profits of \$58 million; or Xerox Canada, an Ontario-based corporation with 1986 profits of \$59.7 million; or the Toronto Stock Exchange, which had a 1986 profit of \$6.1 million.

These are the profit figures I am quoting. The answer to the second part of my question is the family of four living at the poverty line, who paid \$1,846 in federal income tax and \$909.50 in Ontario income tax. Brascan, Cadillac Fairview and Xerox paid not one cent of federal or Ontario income tax; and in fact received tax credits of \$2.3 million, \$9.1 million and \$10.7 million, respectively. The Toronto Stock Exchange, as the Treasurer noted, is designated by the government of Ontario as a nonprofit corporation and therefore does not have to pay taxes. I ask members in this House: can anyone justify it? Maybe someone can. If he can, he certainly operates on different wavelengths than I do.

I want to pass on to members one additional comment on this very same area. We had a very good session, although not very productive, in the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. We had witnesses before us in the week and a half that we dealt with prebudget matters.

I think one of the witnesses before us was a vice-president—he was one of the executive officers—of Hudson's Bay. When we challenged them on some of their statements about the kind of tax reform they wanted to see, he got angry. I forget what the interjection was or the question that was asked. He said, "Well, it is not really fair for you people to always accuse these wealthy corporations of not paying any taxes." He said Hudson's Bay has not paid any corporate income taxes for three years now. It is not my research. This is quoting the executive officer of Hudson's Bay: "Three years we have not paid a cent in corporate income taxes."

But he said there is a justification for it: "The two or three years prior to that our company lost some money." Maybe they were reorganizing; I do not know what they were doing—something, I am sure, that was in their long-term benefit—but they lost money, and therefore, "We are only taking advantage of the tax laws to allow us now to claim against those losses that we had two, three and four years ago."

I want to ask all of the members in this House in good faith to tell me the worker who is laid off at Firestone, Goodyear or some of the other plants and is half a year out of work and can go and claim so that he pays not a cent of income tax

to make up for some of that lost income from the previous years.

1740

You see, when you get down to it, you could use any number of cases, but the point I am trying to make is that we have a case here where a company that is obviously doing very well, thank you, in the last three years in Ontario—Hudson's Bay—is not paying a bloody cent, as were these other companies. Yet there is nothing in this budget that addresses one of the most inequitable methods of taxation and unfair kinds of loopholes that are there for these kinds of companies, as against the ordinary person who is paying every cent that is required of him in his personal income tax and in the sales taxes.

The standing committee on finance and economic affairs of this House held some prebudget hearings. We obviously did not have much influence on the Treasurer. As a matter of fact, I would go so far as to say we had absolutely none whatsoever. In fairness, we may have started a little late, after the Treasurer had already worked out his budget and already made his decisions, although we were holding the hearings several weeks before this budget presentation.

Maybe he felt he could not let us know that he would not accept any of our recommendations because he did not want to waste our time or something like that, I am not sure; but I can tell members that what the budget provided was not the kind of reform that was in a number of the recommendations made by our committee. We did not win many of the arguments that we really tried to make before that committee, from my party at least, nor did the Conservatives.

But there were some of them—one of them was to eliminate Ontario personal income tax for those living at or below the poverty line. The recommendations are in the report of the committee, and some of the members should take a look at it. The committee voted for that.

Well, the very slight move we have is not something anybody should be proud of in terms of eliminating personal income tax for those at or below the poverty line. As all members know from the questions we have placed in this House, people below the poverty line to this day are paying, and paying very heavily, while others are getting a break.

Eliminate Ontario health insurance plan premiums for the working poor. Once again, the Treasurer made a very slight movement to increase, I forget the number, by 15,000 or 30,000 the number of people. But we still have

not eliminated a very basic and very tough tax on people who probably need the help most.

When we tried to get an increase in the value of the Ontario tax credit system, we were defeated in committee. When we tried to reintroduce succession duties on the estates of the wealthy in order to capture revenues lost by the generous manner in which capital gains are taxed, we were defeated in the committee. We did not have the government's support on those particular items, and obviously there is nothing in the budget that shows them there, either.

I could go on at great length with the recommendations made. Most of them in our committee's report were not that startling or that progressive, but I can also tell members there are very few of them that were touched, and none of them that really dealt with a switch to a more progressive form of taxation in Ontario were touched at all in this particular budget.

Then you have to wonder what the purpose is of some of the committees that we are setting up, some of the committee work that goes on in this House. Is it just a way to farm out contentious issues to a committee to the benefit of the government? You have to begin to question these kinds of issues, because it does not appear to me that there was much to be gained, even though I myself would say that it was a useful and a good exercise if the committee really had some clout. But it is obvious to me that, at least this first round, we might as well not have held the hearings that we did hold.

The Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped is another group that was before our committee. I raise them because I think they made one of the most compelling cases that could be made for assistance to people who really are in need, the handicapped, the disabled; and some of them have a pretty sorry state in life. They came before our committee with a number of recommendations based on what they felt they might now get as a result of some election promises.

I want to read one paragraph from Mrs. Potter talking about her meetings with, I guess, the Treasury people and then her appearance before our committee. Just so that I am not misleading anybody, I will give the members the question I asked that sponsored or provoked her response and a couple of other comments here.

"I guess what I am wondering in my own mind is this." This is my address to Mrs. Potter. "In the areas that you highlighted—in particular, transportation, assistive devices programs, attendant care for disabled people, the advocacy request—I gather you are feeling that something may be

about to happen in these areas. What have you achieved in terms of hard progress over the last couple of years? I know we do not have an advocacy system in place yet, but have we seen substantial improvements in transportation or in the assistive devices program, or are they all things that for the first time you feel you have a commitment to?"

Mrs. Potter replied thus: "We have had quite good response over the last two years, but there is still a great deal more to be done. We are not making enough headway with it. We have got to make sure that these promises that were made during the elections are kept up in front. We cannot allow them to be buried any more. Where everybody else finishes up with promises and commitments, we finish up with surveys. We are tired of surveys. We have been surveyed to death."

I could go on with some of the other very useful comments in this particular report, but that was the comment of Mrs. Potter.

I think I will not leave it without adding two little notes that I thought were useful. They were comments of two of the Liberal members of that particular committee.

The first was the member for Eglinton (Ms. Poole)—I do not think she is a regular member but was sitting in—and she said to them after they had made their presentation: "I would like to thank you for coming here today. We are hearing moving stories which have, certainly for me and I suspect for many members of the committee, told a much more effective story than any number of written pieces of paper that you could have."

She makes some comments to one of the individuals, and then she goes on: "It just seems to make common sense that what you are asking for you should not even have to be asking for. I am glad you brought that," these arguments, "to the committee's attention." Those were the comments of the member for Eglinton.

The member for Brantford (Mr. Neumann), after they had finished, said, and I quote out of the Hansard of the committee: "I must add my comments to those of my colleague Dianne Poole. Your presentation has been most impressive and I must say I am just sorry the television is not with us today, because of all the presentations I have had the pleasure of sharing with this committee, this is the most moving."

I use those two quotes from two of the government members to underline the comments we had also from Mrs. Potter and from the various members of that committee who talked

about some of the real problems they had in surviving in today's world.

Well, what did they get? They were fairly satisfied with the assistive devices improvements. They made some gains there. It is something, I might say, that both we and Liberal members, in government and while they were in opposition, have been shouting about as not being adequate for a good number of years in this Legislature, and they did make some gains there.

Beyond that, they got very little. On transportation for the handicapped, as they have pointed out again to us since, there was an election promise of \$84.1 million over five years. They expected to get \$15 million in this budget—I do not know where or what led them to believe that. What did they get? They have \$7 million in the first year. If there was an election commitment of \$84.1 million over five years, the government is really going to have to jump it in the next few if it went for only \$7 million this year, and it knows what the need for transportation does in terms of assisting the handicapped.

They got a very poor response and no help in probably the most legitimate complaint of all, attendant care. Once again, why I think it is so sad that we have not looked at some of these problems is that it may be costing us in the long run. They have made a very effective case, as they did before our committee, that without attendant care they cannot cope in the real world, they cannot cope with the jobs that, in many cases, they are able to get, and we are going to end up with them in some form of assisted care homes in more and more cases. I do not think that is the approach we want to take. Certainly it is not the approach that adds anything in terms of quality of life or indicates a caring society.

They got nothing in terms of the advocacy help they had requested. They got nothing in terms of the employment assistance, or very little of the employment assistance that they asked for—all of the things which would have helped one of the most disadvantaged groups in our community cope for themselves, or at least try to cope for themselves; give them pride, at least.

There are one or two members of our committee who are sitting in the House right now. They may very well remember the effect of that group, and I think they probably agreed with the comments of two of their colleagues that this is one group that should not even have to be asking for it. Some of those members may have talked to them after the budget presentation, or as late as today, as I did. We have an extremely unhappy group who felt they were totally had in

this budget; and they are right, they are right in terms of priority and the needs of ordinary people.

I guess there are so many things I could say and would say. I guess I had myself psyched up to the point where I really did not care what the heck members thought of my comments when I started here today, but I simply want to say that the Treasurer has not moved in the direction of fairness; he has not moved in the direction of equity; he has not moved in the direction of helping the most disadvantaged groups; he has not moved in the direction of plugging the loopholes.

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He has certainly gone with one of the biggest tax grabs we have ever seen, in terms of \$1 billion a year in the sales tax increase; and people who are at a high-income level are going to do better on the personal income tax situation than those at the low-income level, as my colleague the member for Nickel Belt has pointed out in this House so adequately.

I guess the bottom line is, how can they be proud of the particular budget that has been brought down here today; and where is that commitment?

While we did not get many of the individual points in the standing committee on finance and economic affairs in the prebudget stuff, at least there was a general feeling that we had to move in a more progressive taxing direction. That has not happened, and I think the members of this government are resting on the arrogance of a 94-member majority. I do not see anybody in the back benches challenging them as they should be challenged over something as basic as this, and I wonder what their commitment is and what their commitment is worth. To me, not a heck of a lot. A commitment from this Liberal Party, based on what we have seen in this budget and based on some of the election promises, is not worth the powder to blow it to hell.

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I feel compelled, as Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs, to rise to comment on some of the remarks made by the member for Hamilton East. In my particular role, I do have the opportunity to visit with seniors in many situations and I agree with the member that the best way to become informed and become knowledgeable, and then in fact caring, is to get out and work at the grass-roots level with the people for whom you are responsible.

There are two areas of the budget in particular which are of significance to seniors across this

province. These two areas, I believe, are housing and health care. Housing is an area where there have been significant dollars addressed in this budget. Those dollars are of importance and significance to our senior citizens.

The area of health care is an area that seniors will be extremely interested in. Today in this province, senior citizens use 22 per cent of physicians' services, 44 per cent of acute care dollars and 78 per cent of chronic care dollars. The significant dollars that have been put towards health care in this budget will make a great deal of difference to seniors across this province.

Let me also direct members to page 46 of the budget, where in-year expenditures are outlined. Again, the commitment of this government to our seniors is shown: the Ontario health insurance plan, \$198 million; the Ontario drug benefit plan, \$52 million; home care, supporting seniors in their homes, \$38 million additional, and homes for the aged, \$26 million.

This budget does address in a very significant way the needs of a group of Ontarians who have contributed, and who continue to contribute in their senior years, so much to this generation.

Mr. Harris: I want to say I have been in this chamber for a little over seven years now; some days it seems like 30.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It seems like that to us too.

Mr. Harris: The Treasurer indicates it seems like 30 to him too.

But I want to say I enjoyed the remarks of the member for Hamilton East. In the seven years I have been here, I have always almost totally agreed with everything he has ever said, whether I have been on that side of the House or on this side. My recollection is that he has always been able to get right to the point, and I am very pleased to once again—as I almost unanimously have, as I said—associate myself with his total condemnation of this disastrous budget that has been foisted on the people of Ontario.

I also commend the member for his comments on seniors. I suppose there were really two things, but I am prompted to comment on this subject because the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) has said a few things in response to the speech that indicate to me that she does not have a clue or a total idea of what senior citizens want or what their concerns are.

They do not want to be in hospitals and they do not want to see more doctors. It is not dollars we are talking about. What we are talking about is how those dollars are allocated and what services

indeed are being provided for. I hope that the minister will spend a little bit more time discovering just what it is that senior citizens do want. I think we will also find that health care dollars can be spent far more efficiently in this province than in looking for more doctors and OHIP and beds and drugs for senior citizens. They are tired of that.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am sorry to say that the minister who responded seems to have totally missed the point of my remarks. It is an overall problem. We can go into the individuals too. I can tell her that my contacts are pretty good. I have probably got the oldest population of most ridings in Ontario. Certainly, I know that for a number of years we have been second or third in the entire province in terms of 50th and 60th anniversary plaques and 90th birthday plaques. A lot of my work is with the seniors in my riding and they are not very happy, but they are probably more unhappy with the sales tax than they are with some of the other issues that the minister raised; although I do not think we have done that much.

We have no commitment in this budget to improve community-based options to institutional care for seniors and the disabled, one of the points I was trying to make in terms of the disabled. We have nothing to increase community-based health services. The spending on community and public health has declined from 4.2 per cent of the total health spending to 3.7 per cent in the last decade. That in itself is probably crazy because it should be the opposite when you take a look at the growing older population in our province and community today.

Without going into any more points than that, let me simply say that the minister had better bone up on the kind of arguments that are being made. If she does not agree with them, fine and dandy, but let us not try to sell a bill of goods when it does not exist when it comes to fairness in taxes, because the Treasurer has not done that; and when it comes to dealing with some of the most disadvantaged groups in our community, because we have not answered their needs and problems as well.

On motion by Mr. Villeneuve, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The mother of the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) is a Liberal.

Hon. Mr. Conway: It is quite true what the Treasurer says about—well, not necessarily so, but I have some very good friends in Moose Creek who tell me that there are lots of good Liberals down there.

Anyway, for the squire of Moose Creek and others, I would like to read a business statement

for tomorrow. That is simply to inform the House that the first item of business tomorrow will be third reading of Bill 115, the Toronto Economic Summit Construction Act, to be followed by a continuation of this most interesting and lively budget debate.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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|---|--|
| Adams, Peter (Peterborough L) | Fontaine, Hon. René , Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L) |
| Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP) | Fulton, Hon. Ed , Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L) |
| Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L) | Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L) |
| Beer, Charles (York North L) | Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C. , Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L) |
| Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L) | Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP) |
| Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L) | Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L) |
| Bradley, Hon. James J. , Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L) | Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP) |
| Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC) | Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC) |
| Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP) | Hart, Christine E. (York East L) |
| Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L) | Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L) |
| Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP) | Hošek, Hon. Chaviva , Minister of Housing (Oakwood L) |
| Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L) | Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC) |
| Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L) | Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC) |
| Caplan, Hon. Elinor , Minister of Health (Oriole L) | Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP) |
| Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L) | Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L) |
| Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP) | Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G. , Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L) |
| Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L) | Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L) |
| Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L) | Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L) |
| Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L) | Kwinter, Hon. Monte , Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L) |
| Conway, Hon. Sean G. , Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L) | Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP) |
| Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L) | LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L) |
| Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP) | Leone, Laureano (Downsview L) |
| Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L) | Lipsett, Ron (Grey L) |
| Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC) | Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L) |
| Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC) | MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L) |
| Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC) | Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP) |
| Curling, Hon. Alvin , Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L) | Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L) |
| Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L) | Mancini, Hon. Remo , Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L) |
| Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L) | Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC) |
| Eakins, Hon. John F. , Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L) | Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP) |
| Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A. , Speaker (Perth L) | Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L) |
| Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L) | McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC) |
| Elston, Hon. Murray J. , Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L) | McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L) |
| Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L) | McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L) |
| Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC) | McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L) |
| Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP) | McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC) |
| Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L) | McLeod, Hon. Lyn , Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L) |
| Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L) | Miclash, Frank (Kenora L) |
| Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L) | Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L) |
| Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L) | |

- Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 54

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Thursday, April 28, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 28, 1988

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

PENSION FUNDS

Mr. D. S. Cooke moved resolution 17:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that the scope and recommendations of the Task Force on Inflation Protection for Employment Pension Plans failed to meet the concerns of workers and most particularly retirees whose pensions have already been eroded by inflation but who will get nothing from these proposals, this Legislature strongly urges the government of Ontario to: introduce legislation to require indexation of all pensions with the same indexing formula applicable to current plan members, current pensioners and those entitled to a deferred pension; place an immediate moratorium on the use of contribution holidays which are, in fact, just another means of surplus withdrawals.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am sure that after all the goodwill that has been developed in the Legislature in the last couple of weeks, members of the government party will be more than willing to support this resolution. But just in case they have not been fully convinced, I do have some comments that I think will simply be overwhelming. Anyone with good sense will be compelled to vote yes in favour of this resolution when we get around to voting on it at about noon today.

Mr. Black: We will consider it on its merits.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Considered on its merits; yes, I am sure it will be.

I certainly do not pretend to be an expert at all in the area of pensions. I do not even fully understand our own pension plan here in the Legislature. However, I probably have paid a little more attention to it in recent years—the longer you are here, the more attention you pay—than I did when I was first elected.

I think it is fair to say that for most members of the Legislature, pensions are basically taken for granted. We have decent incomes, we have a very good pension plan and, in many cases, as evidenced by the material that was filed in the

Legislature under the conflict-of-interest guidelines and now legislation, it is very clear that many members of the Legislature, and in particular members of the executive council whose returns we have seen at this point, have a lot of personal wealth as well.

So in that respect, from a personal point of view, I guess it is understandable that members of the Legislature might take the issue of pensions for granted rather than understanding that there are many people in our province and in our communities who really are suffering because of inadequate incomes and attempting to live on very low fixed incomes.

I remember back in 1958 when my grandfather died. He had worked about 40 years in the auto industry, most of those years at the Ford Motor Co. He died before his retirement but close to his retirement and my grandmother got not one cent from that pension plan. That was back in 1958, and she was forced to survive on \$75 a month from the old age pension plan at that time, and that was it. She still had her home; she still had to pay her property taxes; she still had to buy food and all the other necessities of life, but she had to try to survive on \$75 a month. None of her medical expenses were covered initially. She had no prescription plan—certainly none of that. She had \$75 a month income and that was it.

I would be the first to agree that things have come a long way since 1958. I know that no members of the Legislature would ever want to go back to those horrible times when our elderly in this province and in Canada lived primarily in a state of very low incomes and inability to enjoy their retiring years.

However, today there are still three million working people in Ontario who have absolutely no pension plan at all at the place they work. Sixty per cent of the workers in this province have no pension plan and the breakout for women is even worse: 70 per cent of working women have no pension plan. Even the lucky ones who work at companies with pension plans can expect a massive erosion of their income. For example, a pension worth \$1,000 per month today will be worth about \$450 15 years from now.

Promises from this government, from the Liberal government, from the Peterson govern-

ment that the principle of inflation protection was accepted and that only the details of implementation needed to be worked out were very effective during the election campaign.

I reread in the last few days the debate that took place on Bill 170, the amendments to the Pension Benefits Act. I read the June 24 and June 25 Hansards from last year. In that debate, my former colleague Ross McClellan moved an amendment that would provide for inflation protection at a rate of 100 per cent. The member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Kwinter), the Minister of Financial Institutions at the time, stated, as did the then Progressive Conservative critic, Mr. Ashe, that they both accepted the principle of inflation protection but that we had to wait for the Friedland Task Force on Inflation Protection for Employment Pension Plans to make its report, but that no one should be concerned because the government of the day supported the principle of inflation protection.

We went through an election with the Liberals promising inflation protection. I well remember a debate that took place, sponsored by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, in Windsor during the election. I debated with the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), and this issue was raised by many of the members of the public who were at the meeting. The member for Windsor-Sandwich said, on behalf of the Liberal Party: "Not to worry. The government is committed to inflation protection. Mr. Cooke has no reason to be concerned. Workers in this province will soon see inflation protection, as soon as the Friedland task force reports. All you have to do is wait for that task force."

Now the task force has reported and it has suggested a formula that is so weak that no one will experience the full benefits for 30 to 40 years. No one will experience the full benefits of this package until well into the next century. The member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon), the present Minister for Financial Institutions, has not given a formal response, but his comments in the press after the report had been filed were that he basically embraced and endorsed the Friedland recommendations.

Just in case members do not know what the Friedland recommendations are, the recommendations on inflation protection are as follows:

That they would ask for or guarantee 75 per cent of the increases in the consumer price index minus one per cent for future contributions only. Therefore, if inflation were five per cent, the worker would get inflation protection of 75 per cent of that or 3.75 per cent minus one per cent.

So an inflation rate of five per cent would produce protection of only 2.75 per cent and that would only be on future contributions.

A further recommendation says that inflation protection could be provided retroactively at a rate of 75 per cent of the increases in the consumer price index minus two per cent. That would produce 1.75 per cent, but it is completely voluntary. There will be no enforcement on retroactivity whatsoever.

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I am going to get back to that a bit when I quote some of the sections of the Friedland report which prove very clearly that, in fact, we cannot rely on companies to do this voluntarily. If we could, we would not have to be looking at legislation. It would already have been done.

Page 258 of the report refers to the effects of inflation:

"A person retiring in 1965 with an initial employment pension of, say, \$100 a month would have seen its value decline by 1985 to \$26 a month in 1965 terms. Even someone retiring as recently as 1980 with a \$100 benefit would have seen the real value decline to \$63 by 1985."

Clearly inflation is hurting very much the people who are already retired, and the Friedland recommendations would do absolutely nothing to correct this situation.

Page 259 of the report says:

"The defined-benefit plan has one major drawback, however. Without some form of inflation protection, there can be an inequitable redistribution of resources away from pensioners to the plan sponsors, who, in many cases, use these funds to upgrade the benefits of the active workers. Pensioners suffer by not having their pensions increase with inflation; yet the fund used to provide these benefits continues to grow at a speed that varies with the rate of inflation. It is not acceptable for pensioners to carry an unfair share of the burden imposed by inflation."

In other words, they are saying that the people who are currently retired and who contributed to the pension plans see their contributions increasing in that pension plan, but they reap none of the benefits, none of the benefits whatsoever.

Page 260 of the report states:

"In chapter 3 we examined whether plan sponsors have been dealing with this potential inequality by granting increases that go some way to meeting inflationary increases. There has been very little automatic inflation protection in the private sector—well under 10 per cent of the plans. Indexation in the public sector is much more common. Although many employers grant

voluntary, or, as they are called, 'ad hoc' increases, the extent of indexation is quite low compared to the rate of inflation. One major survey showed that the increases granted over the past 10 years by the median company were under 30 per cent of the inflation rate. There is great unevenness in granting ad hoc adjustments. Larger companies granted them more often than smaller companies, while Canadian companies granted them more often than Canadian subsidiaries of US-based companies."

Clearly, the only way that workers are going to experience protection of their pension plans from inflation is if this government and this Legislature have the courage, the conviction and the guts to bring in legislation. It will not be done voluntarily by the private sector.

I have one final quote at this point. It states on page 261 of the report:

"The higher the inflation formula, the greater the cost." That obviously makes sense. "As we saw in chapter 8, a 100 per cent inflation formula without caps would result in very high potential costs. This would lead in many cases to the discontinuance of plans or the passing on of the cost to employees through lower salaries or reduced benefits in the future."

I read that because obviously what Friedland is saying in that excerpt is that pension plans are negotiated and, if those pension plans go up in cost through negotiations, then the unions that are negotiating those contracts have to accept lower salaries. We have always said that. We have always said that pensions are deferred wages.

Madam Speaker, if you accept the principle that pensions are deferred wages, then obviously that money belongs not to the company or the plan's sponsor, that money belongs to the members of the pension plan. That means that a whole bunch of other assumptions has to be accepted and that means that surpluses should be used to protect the members against inflation and not be used in some other way by surplus withdrawals or contribution holidays.

The Friedland report accepts the fact that inflation is a real and significant burden on the retirees. Some people have argued that retirees need less and therefore they do not need 100 per cent inflation protection. But clearly, on page 123 of the Friedland report, it states that there is absolutely no evidence that would show that retirees need less than you or I might. The report points out that the life expectancy is increasing and there are obviously more retirees and will be more retirees. Without protection, these people

will be left on fixed incomes, very vulnerable to inflation.

It is worth repeating that someone who retired in 1980 with a monthly pension of \$1,000 saw its worth diminished to \$634 by 1985. At the same time, property taxes went away up and the property tax grant from this government has only gone up \$100 in the last 10 years, so it has hardly kept up with inflation. It is no wonder that many people who are working in our companies and factories across this province do not take early retirement. With all the questions about possible protection and their vulnerability to inflation and being stuck on fixed incomes, they cannot afford to take early retirement or even take retirement when their benefits would be at a maximum.

Retirees in this province and elsewhere in Canada fought hard in world wars to keep this nation free for you and me and it seems rather cruel that governments today are not prepared to protect those same people who fought for us and built this nation and built this province so that they can have a decent retirement. It is not because there has not been a demonstrated need. We know there is a demonstrated need; the Friedland report makes that very clear, and members who have talked to their constituents know there is a need.

Members will remember when the committee of the Legislature was studying Bill 170, which was the amendment to the Pension Benefits Act, it talked about the issue of inflation protection. The auto companies went before that committee and said that if they had to pay inflation protection, they would go broke. It was just not possible and it should not even be considered. It was only a matter of months after that they negotiated at the bargaining table with the Canadian Auto Workers and they have now some inflation protection and they upgraded pensions over a six-year plan for people who were already retired. So the arguments that some of the most profitable companies in our province and in our country and in the world cannot afford inflation protection is absolute nonsense.

I encourage members of the Legislature to look at the Friedland report, and especially the comments on Sweden, Germany, France and the United Kingdom where they have taken a totally different approach to pensions. They understand that inflation protection and income for the retirees of their nations is absolutely essential and well deserved. These countries have accepted the principle of inflation protection. They have a much better public pension plan system as well.

I would like now to turn my attention briefly to the second aspect of my resolution which is obviously very much related to inflation protection, and that is the one of contribution holidays. The basic principle enunciated in the Friedland report through the quotes I have read is that the moneys in the pension plans are, in fact, deferred wages. If they are deferred wages, then that means the contributions as well as the money earned on those contributions, the surpluses, belong to the employees. If a better pension plan can be obtained through negotiations or through the imposition of legislation, then clearly the money is there through the surpluses. If a pension is a deferred wage, then clearly the money belongs to the members of the pension plan. This includes, as I have said, the pension surpluses.

Government seemed to accept this principle when it froze the surplus withdrawals a couple of years ago. However, contribution holidays are still allowed. It is crazy to think that there is a difference between a contribution holiday and a surplus withdrawal. The end effect is exactly the same.

The Treasurer has said that new federal legislation prohibits him from allowing surpluses to grow and that, in fact, the surplus can only be two years' worth of benefits. I understand that there are new federal regulations coming in, but it is clear also that those surpluses can be diminished in two ways: by contribution holidays where the employer takes the money and does with it what he wants, or by improving the pensions of the retirees. If we accept the principle that those surpluses belong to the employees and the members of the pension plan, then there is no bloody way that money should go back to the employer. That money should be used to improve the pensions of the retirees, the future retirees or both.

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The Treasurer indicated, when we talked about the hospital situation where the Ontario Hospital Association is withdrawing \$80 million, that there was absolutely nothing he could do. Let me point out that the average pension for someone who retired in 1986 and worked for the hospitals in this province is \$436 a month or \$5,232 a year. Surely to God, rather than allowing the Ontario Hospital Association to pull out \$80 million, that \$80 million should have been used to improve the pensions of those people who are on very low incomes in our province and who were very lowly paid when they were working in the hospital system.

The Ontario Hospital Association justifies the contribution holiday by saying that it is going to use this money for computerized axial tomography scanners and other high-tech equipment. I do not think the members of pension plans in our province should have to pay for that type of equipment. If, in fact, that is needed in our province and our province's hospitals, then that cost should be shared by all of us. That is what medicare is all about. That is what socialized medicine is all about. We share the cost of our health care system equally. We should not be putting that burden simply on the hospital workers of this province.

I have a very short period of time left. I have a list of companies I had wanted to run through that in the past have just simply withdrawn their surpluses. So that members understand, during the period of time between April 1, 1986, and November 30, 1986, \$42,435,000 was withdrawn from pension plans in this province. I ask the members of the Legislature to look at what is happening with contribution holidays and what has happened in the past with surplus withdrawals and understand that if we do not make decisions now to freeze the contribution holidays, there are not going to be surpluses in the pension plans to be able to pay for inflation protection or to improve pensions for our retirees in this province.

We have a long way to go. The government has the data in front of it and I encourage it to move quickly. We, as members of the Legislature, can send a message to the Treasurer and the government that we care about our retirees in this province and that we want protection for those employees now.

Mr. Harris: I am pleased to have the opportunity to add a few comments to the resolution the member has put forward today. I want to say that I share the member's concern. I share the thrust of the concern he expressed in his comments today. Indeed, there are a number of people in Ontario today who have worked hard, who have paid their dues, who have done all they could do and more to build a foundation for this province, for the prosperity that those of us who have come after have had the opportunity to enjoy, and there are some problems there. But I cannot support the resolution and I want to tell members why I cannot support the resolution.

The principle, we agree with. There are some inequities out there for some people, particularly those the first part of the resolution talks about, those retirees who have been retired for some period of time and who have no indexing of their

pension plans. Inflation over that period of time has eroded those private pension plans to the point where they are certainly not doing what they were intended to do when those employees were working.

But this resolution does not address the inequities of those who had no pension plan during those years. In fact, it penalizes those employers, those small companies—some of them large, but many of them small companies—which at a time when private pension plans were not the norm, said: “Yes, we want to provide a pension plan for our employees. Yes, we are going to set this up and we are going to assist employees. We are going to make contributions ourselves.”

What this resolution does is say to those companies and those enlightened employers: “Due to unforeseen circumstances that your retired employees really did not have a way of foreseeing, and obviously you did not have a way of foreseeing, we’re going to punish you. We’re going to make you pay.” Those employers who had no pension plans through that period of time and who did not provide for any retirement for their employees will get it double-barrelled. You will say, “Well, they didn’t have it then, they weren’t enlightened then and it doesn’t cost them anything now.”

There is something wrong with that rationale. It is like a lot of principles. You write something down in theory and you take a box and say: “These people have a problem here. We’re all sympathetic to that problem, so here’s a solution. We’ll simply index everybody’s pension back.” Then you have to look at who is going to pay for this.

This resolution says to those enlightened employers, “You’re going to have to pay again. To those of you who did not care about your employees back in that period of time”—for whatever reason; perhaps the employees did not want a pension plan either; let us be honest about it—“to those employers, nothing.”

If there is a problem and if it is caused by circumstances that those employees of the day who are now retired and have been retired for some period of time could not foresee, and if government is concerned about those individuals, then government should do something about it. We should not go back to those employers who were the most enlightened of their day and say retroactively: “We’re going to penalize you. You’re going to have to fund this.” If there is a problem, and there is with a number of our

retirees, then surely government has a role to play.

Whenever I throw it back to government, people say to me: “Well, aren’t you the guy who wants a balanced budget? Aren’t you the guy who didn’t want any tax increases?” Yes, I am.

So how do you take care of retired senior citizens whom, in many cases through no fault of their own, inflation has caught up with? You take care of them by doing away with a lot of the universality we have. You take the pension cheque my father gets. He is now 72 or 73. I hope you are watching today, father. You take the pension cheque he is getting—not the pension cheque, I am sorry, but the automatic stuff you get by virtue of your age, and you say: “Mr. Harris, you did very well under the system that was in place and you have quite a bit of money. You’re not a rich man, but you have plenty of money, enough to afford your house and your boat and your cars, and you don’t need this extra money.”

Mr. Laughren: That is 100 per cent taxation. That is expropriation.

Mr. Harris: So you take that money away from my father and you give it to those who need it. You look at things like the tax credit and you give it to people who need it. Indeed, those senior citizens who now are having problems—if you look at how we distribute the funds, we could be giving them far more than what we are giving them if we would quit sending the automatic benefits to the likes of my father, Harold Ballard and indeed many who are retiring these days who have done very well by the system.

I think there is a problem. I compliment the member for his resolution which allows some debate and focuses attention on that problem. The fact that I am not supporting the resolution does not diminish my admiration for the member for bringing it forward.

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Mr. Wildman: You? Admiration?

Mr. Harris: My admiration for the member for bringing it forward. I congratulate him and I share his concern. I guess I differ as to where the solution should lie. As I see it, this resolution goes after the wrong people to correct the problem and I do not think two wrongs necessarily are going to make a right.

I also want to talk briefly on the moratorium on the use of contribution holidays which the member says is another means of surplus withdrawals. Again, what we are talking about here—the pension plan and the companies I want

to defend, if you like, are the most enlightened. They are the ones that have sat down and negotiated a pension plan and how much money is in the pension plan is totally irrelevant. They have negotiated a fixed benefit, such as 75 per cent of the average of your best five years or the average of your three years; I am speaking on behalf of them.

Those are defined pension plans, most of them negotiated—not all of them, though, but many of them—by very enlightened companies that have recognized that pensions are important and that life after work, after you have contributed to a company for a number of years, is important. They have provided that benefit to their employees either through individual agreements or through contracts, so the idea of surplus withdrawals is really not relevant there. That company must provide that defined-benefit plan. If there is a shortfall, that company must put the money in.

If we ban surplus withdrawals for those companies, we can be sure they will never, ever put enough in. They will never have enough in. It is like telling an apartment owner he can never convert to a condominium and then you are shocked when he builds a condominium which he can convert to an apartment. What do you expect the guy to do? You say that if he builds an apartment building he can never convert it to a condominium and you are shocked that there are only 400 apartment units built in Toronto. Everybody is building condominiums. Why not? It is because of the stupid legislation that is there.

Governments do not seem to look beyond how they are attacking the problem when they attack symptoms instead of the problem. We have a great deal of sympathy for those who are retired and are having problems and we think government has a role to play, but we do not think this resolution, while it attacks the problem and identifies it, gives the proper solution.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: I too commend the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) for the sensitivity and thoughtfulness he brings to this issue. It is a very difficult debate because it is a very complex matter we are looking at. As evidence of the complexity, I just hold up in front of the members the report of Messrs. Friedland, Jackson and Pilkey, which is four volumes. It brought a lot of work to the issue, a lot of thoughtful commentary and thoughtful recommendations, but if nothing else, the members can see that it is not a simple matter.

One key fact I think all members should keep in mind as we go through this discussion is that

only 37 per cent of existing employees are covered by a private pension plan.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That's what I said.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: I know the member said this but I want to reaffirm it. Fully 63 per cent are not covered by any form of private pension plan, and indeed on retirement have to rely on the Canada pension plan, old age security, guaranteed annual income system programs and so on.

I also want to give the members some background history on how we got to this debate and where the debate stands in the Ontario Legislature. Bill 170, which was An Act to revise the Pension Benefits Act, was proclaimed in force on January 1, 1988. It was a major reform in the entire area of private pension programs for all of Canada. It was based on a national consensus built up over the period of four years and agreed upon by the 10 provinces and the federal government.

In fact, on second reading, this government deviated from the national consensus in one significant respect. The Liberal government inserted a provision in the new Pension Benefits Act that required a specific section which will require the formula for mandatory indexation to be set out in the act.

In other words, quite clearly this government committed to mandatory indexation. The formula remained to be developed—or the formulae, plural. Indeed, I can tell the members the government then proceeded to commission Professor Martin Friedland, Sydney Jackson and Cliff Pilkey of the Ontario Federation of Labour to define an affordable and effective formula for pension indexation. Those are the key words, “affordable” and “effective.”

Out of that review, study and public hearings came this report we have before us. Now, the report in many ways produced a Solomon-like solution. The proposal recommended was that prospective indexation be mandatory. In other words, future pensioners shall have indexation at a rate of 75 per cent of the increases in the consumer price index, minus one per cent. The Friedland commission argued that retroactive protection for existing retirees would cost between 200 and 300 per cent more than simple prospective or future pension indexation. Indeed, the cost of payroll for retroactive indexation goes up to as high as 18 per cent of payroll, an exorbitant amount in the view of Mr. Friedland.

The problems with the retroactivity my friend would like to see, which I think we are all sympathetic to, is threefold. One, the retroactive

indexation that would be given to existing retirees requires a subsidization from existing employees. In other words, employees who are now paying into the pension plan would have to pay more and employers would have to pay more to ensure indexation for those people who have already retired. I say we really have to consider what sort of load we want to put on the existing employees and employers at this point.

I suggest another thing we have to consider is that only 37 per cent of the employees in the province are covered by pension plans. Clearly, when we load an additional cost on to the existing plan sponsors, a cost that may go up to as high as 18 per cent of payroll, we have to consider the competitive disadvantage we impose on those companies that are offering pension plans at this time. Those companies that do not offer pension plans clearly become more competitive and do not have the cost disadvantage imposed upon them.

Again, in the same sense, we have to consider the increased cost as a deterrent to the creation of new pension plans. Clearly, plan sponsors or prospective plan sponsors will look at the legislation and say to themselves that the cost of establishing a defined-benefit pension plan with full indexation, prospectively and retroactively for future retirees and existing retirees, is so high that they are not going to go into it. They may follow the model of the group registered retirement savings plan. They may use the defined-contribution plan that is not indexed, another form of pension plan I will go into. But the cost will really deter them from establishing pension plans and I think everyone would agree that we want the private sector to establish plans, that we want to encourage it, and cost is clearly a factor when they make that decision.

Just briefly, I want to outline some of the aspects of pension plans for the members' assistance in considering the debate. The real incentive to establishing a private pension plan is the Income Tax Act of Canada. The Income Tax Act says that an employer can move income into a pension plan on a tax-free basis. It is a means of deferring the payment of tax and you can move it into that plan and keep it out of the taxable income.

None the less, the Department of National Revenue, under the Income Tax Act, sets rules as to what you must do when a surplus arises. It says you can do three things as a plan sponsor: one, you can enrich benefits; two, if the surplus gets to the level of two years' contributions, then you have to take it out; or, three, you have to take a

contribution holiday. When the surplus gets to the level of two years' maximum contribution, the plan sponsor has to do one of three things, or the plans deregister and the employer has to pay tax on all of the money which was put into the pension plan. There is a decision which the plan sponsor has to make. Clearly, this government has banned surplus withdrawals and temporarily banned plan windups.

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It is important for the members to understand that the employer or plan sponsor is then left with two alternatives. Before examining those alternatives, I would just like to briefly comment as to where surplus arises. Surplus does not arise because there is a fixed number of dollars in the plan, and when it is withdrawn or a contribution holiday is taken, it is not a theft. Surplus arises simply because an actuary says, "In order to meet all your future obligations as a pension plan sponsor, we believe the future interest rate will be seven per cent, and based on that seven per cent, these are the reserves you require." The money in the pension plan may well exceed those reserves or may well be below those reserves. Change that actuarial assumption by one per cent and a surplus of hundreds of millions of dollars can be turned into a deficit.

The whole point is that if we ban contribution holidays, we are going to discourage conservative actuarial assumptions which lead to adequately funded pension plans, and that may lead to failure of the pension plan or no pension plan.

They are difficult decisions from a regulatory point of view, from a social policy point of view and from a business point of view, but there are a number of reasons why the contribution holiday cannot be banned.

The problem with attempting to ban them is that the surplus cannot be identified and the extent of the contribution holiday cannot be identified. My friend suggests that the surplus is the workers' money. I suggest to him that he is quite incorrect. The surplus arises because of actuarial assumptions as to future requirements. It is not money that is necessarily in the pension plan; it is money that may have to go into the pension plan at some future date. By and large, that money comes from an employer's deferral of wage payments to the employee. I will agree with that. However, I would suggest to my friends that they have failed to consider the most important aspect of the surplus, and that is that it is created by rules requiring conservative funding of plans for the safety of the workers.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Bette Stephenson lives on.

Mr. Mackenzie: My colleague has stolen my line; the Bette Stephenson clone from York Mills has just been giving us a lot of nonsense in this particular debate.

Let me tell you right off the bat that the history of this particular resolution which my colleague has moved in the House goes back way before the legislation this government brought in 1985 and 1988 in terms of the Pension Benefits Act. I might also say that it was the pressure of the accord with the New Democratic Party that made that one of the key and first items this government had to deal with, and it did deal with three specific recommendations that were useful for workers. It did not deal with the indexing or with the surplus funds. That was farmed out to a committee, and as the member well knows, there was no unanimity in terms of that committee.

I might also say that pension plans did not come about because employees were trying to shift money to save taxes. Pension plans came about in this province because a lot of workers realized that without some kind of decent retirement income, they were going to be up against it and, at worst, wards of the state. That was not their intent. It seems to me that the member is trying to say, as I thought the Tory spokesman was on this issue, that we should not deal, because we might penalize all of those who do not have pension plans. I think we should be assisting and giving credit to those who have had the guts to negotiate and work for a pension plan.

When I said workers did not try to escape taxes by establishing pension plans, they tried to protect their standard of living, I am sure all members in this House have done a little bit of research on this particular item and will know that \$100 of pension for somebody who retired in 1971 is worth less than \$30 today; and there are a lot of pensioners around who have been retired that long. When you take a look at the value of their pension, you understand the concerns they have with meeting the tax bills and so on.

Somebody who retired in 1976 has a pension that is today worth less than \$46 for every \$100 worth of pension. For somebody who retired in 1981, that \$100 worth of pension is worth in the low \$70s to him today. This was the problem that was facing workers in the province of Ontario, and most of the private pension plans that we have come about as a result of union contracts and negotiations by the workers. Once again, while I will acknowledge there may be a few benevolent employers, the vast majority of them did not march into private pension plans

willingly; they did it because they were forced to through negotiations, and that is the case in almost every major plant that is organized in this particular province.

Those employees are hurting today. I have one letter in front of me sent to me by Lou Henderson, retired steelworker and president of the retirees in the United Steelworkers of America local in Hamilton, who is making the point of what it is costing his members—the fact that they are not able to meet their bills. He gives four examples which he says are four of the better examples: one employee, 10 years retired now, whose pension income is \$405 a month; another one, 18 years—this is his private plan—has \$343; another, 15 years since retirement, \$375; and another, 10 years, at \$377. He uses them only as examples. With that, in the arguments they made with us, were what they are paying and how difficult it is to get along today on that kind of income.

We are really talking about whether or not people are going to live at a decent level once they reach retirement age. I think we should also understand that because this was the basis of most of the private plans starting, I do not think the argument that the money is not theirs when there is a surplus in those plans holds water.

If you have sat down and negotiated union contracts, you will know very well that when you look at the cents per hour, that is one part of a package when you are negotiating. When you look at vacations, that is another part, and there is always a price on it—half a cent, a cent, a cent and a half—depending on what you are trying to achieve in terms of the vacation package. When you take a look at the benefits, whether it is health, the drug coverage, there is also a price, so many cents per hour on it. When you take a look at pensions there is a price, so many cents per hour on it, depending on just what kind of level you want to achieve.

In the process of negotiations you have to balance out what your membership wants, whether you have a plant with younger workers who may not put quite as high a priority on pensions, whether you have more older workers or whether they have finally understood, young or old, the importance of a pension when they reach retirement age.

The package that you finally negotiate in those contracts takes into account the price of each of these components. If the package says that five cents have to go into the pension program this year to boost the level and do what you want, that is five cents that, if you had not negotiated that

pension package, would have gone into the wage package, or if not into the wage package, into better vacations or maybe hearing or better dental coverage or you name it. So it is a matter of deferred wages.

I guess my annoyance with some of the members of this House—I should not say some of the new members who may not have been through it, but some of the current cabinet ministers in the front bench here sat on that select committee on pensions in 1979-80 and I sat on it. We could not reach agreement on indexing then. We argued for it. We argued for an Ontario plan because there are so many workers who are not covered. It is true only 37 per cent of the Ontario workers are in private plans, but we could not convince members to take that route. Frankly, I think substantial improvements in the Canada pension plan are what we should really be doing, and I think this province should be taking the lead in that, because that covers everybody and there is a hell of a lot more sense to it.

But inasmuch as we could not do that, first we had to take a look at whether we could get this government to go for a private plan. When we could not achieve that, then we asked, can we get improvements at least for those workers who have already done the fighting in terms of the private plans that do exist? In that committee, as I have said in this House before, there was unanimity, not on the indexing—I think we were the only people who would support that, although I think there was some support from some of the Liberal members of that committee; at that time they were in opposition also—but there was unanimity, and I do not think I can be challenged on this, that the surpluses in those plans should be used to improve the benefits or have some form of indexing of the private plans that existed. We were all in agreement on that; even the Tories, and the Liberals as well.

1050

I cannot understand what has happened in the past three, four or five years. All of a sudden, that money is no longer deferred wages, that surplus no longer belongs to the employees and it should belong to the company or the company should have the right to take it out. Even there, the government is obviously uneasy, because it has put a moratorium on it. It knows there is a powerful argument, and maybe one or two of them—hopefully, their consciences prick them a bit—understand that they were arguing that money did belong to workers not too long ago.

It seems to me that to allow the companies to take that money out of the plans; or what I think is

even more insidious in some ways to allow companies instead, because they have been thwarted or blocked by the freeze that is on that surplus money in private pension plans, to take a contribution holiday: I do not know how anybody in this House can get up and with a straight face say that is not just an under-the-table theft of that kind of money. To me, it is fundamentally dishonest to make the argument that it is OK to take a contribution holiday. It is exactly the same thing.

We are still allowing that, even though we put a freeze on directly taking the money out; and it is the same doggone thing. We are not using the good investment, that I will acknowledge has gone into these plans and has earned the surplus funds—and there is a lot of surplus money, over \$10 billion in plans in Ontario—to form part of the basic cost of improving those plans, or starting at least on an indexing formula. To me, that does not make any sense whatsoever.

It is one of the things that I think eventually government is going to answer for; either that or it is going to clearly polarize the two points of view in this House. First, that money does belong to workers and should be used for that purpose, and I think that is a better purpose than allowing the companies to take it out; or the government argument or the Tory argument: “No, you cannot. You have a defined benefit plan and it really belongs to the companies.”

I hate to think that is the route we are going, because it means it is going to take an even longer time to win this battle for ordinary people in the province of Ontario.

I think the resolution put before this House by my colleague is a good step. We have done this kind of thing before in a resolution my leader put before this House as well on pensions. I hope the members would reconsider and consider supporting this, and supporting it with more conviction than they have supported some of the positions we have taken in past discussions, all the way back to 1979 or 1980 in committees of this House, and start working towards putting this kind of move into place.

If not, then I challenge every government member in this House to take a look at a public pension plan in Ontario, a provincial pension plan that can deal with and cover all the people in the province of Ontario. That is a final resort, I guess, but this would usually just be a stall. That is why I hate to suggest it, but it is certainly the obvious one: that the province of Ontario take the bit in its teeth and take the lead in saying, “It is time we made major reforms to the Canada

pension plan and we are prepared to say that at the next first ministers' conference."

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Does any other member wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Sterling: How much is left?

The Acting Speaker: Eight minutes. The member for Carleton.

Mr. Sterling: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If the member supports it, I will buy him a turkey.

Mr. Sterling: If he buys two or three, I might.

I would like to indicate some support for some of the ideas contained in this resolution. I think when we are talking about pension plans and major overhauls of the philosophy behind pension plans, we have to be somewhat cautious in the approach. In talking about the benefits side we are dealing with one part of the equation or the problem and not dealing with a number of the other parts of the problem. I think that is not something we can support in its entirety.

There are some real problems that are out there with regard to pension plans, surpluses in pension plans and those kinds of things. I guess the whole idea of indexing—if I may draw some kind of analogy to the situation we have in terms of a benefit plan that we have in this province which has resulted in tremendous problems and I am talking about our workers' compensation scheme.

In our workers' compensation scheme, we started back 10 or 20 years ago—not started, but we continued to pay in premiums based on the assumption that you had a system that was going to pay out benefits under a certain set of circumstances and rules. Then, in our wisdom in this Legislature, what we have done now is we have set forward a different set of rules under which someone who is injured on the job and is entitled to compensation receives compensation. As a result of not marrying the two together, not marrying the contributions which employers pay towards workers' compensation premiums, not marrying that to the benefits which we are now paying, we have as a result a \$6 billion deficit in the workers' compensation fund. If certain things happened in our economy whereby the economy cooled off substantially, there are some pretty horrendous stories as to how fast that deficit could build to even as much as \$20 billion in a very short period of time, like a year.

We have an example of a situation whereby we went in with certain rules. We changed the rules mid-stream and now we have a serious problem

with workers' compensation. We have small businesses, for instance, under our workers' compensation, which are paying over 100 per cent what they were paying three years ago. In other words, their premiums have doubled in the past two or three years. Those are companies that do not even have a bad worker-accident record. I mean they are totally meeting their obligation with regard to safety in the workplace, yet their premiums have doubled. Even with doubling them, it is not enough to make the workers' compensation fund actuarially sound.

We have a situation of changing the rules and getting into problems. One of the problems with indexing of course is that you cannot, with a great deal of clarity, find out what is happening in the future. I have some empathy with the theory of indexing in terms of legislation and talking into the future, but in reaching back and indexing plans whereby workers and employers have not paid in adequately to a pension plan in order to have that luxury of indexing, I think invites some problems.

In essence then, if we do that, what we would be doing is really living off the backs of our children in terms of them having to cover for us not paying our fair share of the premiums to cover a benefit which we may receive in the future. I do not think that is good planning. I think what we should do, if we see that there is a deficiency with regard to pension plans, is to look to our governments to solve that problem. We should not look to the private industries who have entered into this particular arrangement to solve the problem. I think that is a government function to solve a problem. If there is a class of workers who are not receiving enough in order to live, then it is our obligation as legislators to see that those people get a fair share in order to be able to properly live in our society.

It has been mentioned by I think virtually every speaker, that only one third of our workers are covered by pension plans. I think that the philosophy of the party that I represent is that, first of all, we are very much concerned with the people who are unable to take care of themselves, who have not had a union to look out for them, who have not had an employer who has looked out for them, who have not had the luxury of being paid a large wage while they were working. Therefore, first of all, our efforts are to see that the government takes care of those people and making sure that there is a minimum standard of living that people in our province can enjoy. While we have some real empathy towards the thrust and the drive that the member

has put forward, we do see a significant number of problems in implementing what this resolution says.

1100

With that, I would like to say to the member that we in our caucus would be quite willing to work towards plans which will deal with the surplus problem. We do not think this is a solution to the surplus problem. We think—or I feel, I should not speak for my whole caucus with regard to the surplus funds—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You never have in the past. Why would you now?

Mr. Laughren: You are the leading edge of the wedge.

Mr. Sterling: Being at the leading edge of the wedge, I think that if we are to do something with surplus funds, then perhaps we should be doing something for all workers in the province with those surplus funds and not just those who are involved in a particular plan.

RIDING OF PARRY SOUND

Mr. Eves moved resolution 18:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should designate the entire riding of Parry Sound, specifically the district of Parry Sound, as being part of northern Ontario for the purposes of all government ministries, agencies, boards and commissions.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): The honourable member has up to 20 minutes for his presentation and may reserve any portion of that for his windup.

Mr. Eves: Thank you. In all probability, I will reserve at least five minutes at the end.

This is a resolution identical in wording to one in the last parliament which I introduced on June 25, 1987, and which, I might add to members present, especially for new members, was unanimously passed by all members of this Legislature representing all three political parties. In fact, it has been subsequently endorsed by the Liberal candidate in the September 10, 1987, election and by the previous Liberal candidates before that one in the 1985 and 1981 elections. It also has been endorsed by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) on several different occasions. It has been endorsed by the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) and by the Minister of Northern Development and Mines in his previous incarnation.

Mr. Laughren: Why hasn't it happened then?

Mr. Eves: That is a very good question. Why has it not happened then?

I was here about a year ago, rising on exactly the same resolution and I will reiterate some of the points that I made at that time. Some things have changed a little bit. Instead of spending a budget of some \$35 billion, the province's budget this year, just announced last week as a matter of fact by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), is some \$38 billion. Yet the government of Ontario still has not seen fit to include the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario for the purposes of all its ministries.

I might point out, especially to some of the newer members of the Legislature, that there are indeed 10 ministries in the Ontario government that do regard the district of Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario. This is not just an issue that has arisen in the last few years. Before 1977 or late 1976, it was not an issue at all, because there was no Ministry of Northern Affairs—or Northern Development as it is now called—in Ontario.

When that ministry was formed, the first minister, Mr. Bernier, decided to include Parry Sound—and I mean all of the riding of Parry Sound—in his ministry. One by one, different ministries, presumably on the strength and commitment of the individual minister involved, have brought various ministries on stream.

We now have the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Revenue, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Housing, as well as the Ministry of Northern Development, all regarding the district of Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario.

This did not happen all at once. They gradually came on stream one at a time. We have the Ministry of Education in a peculiar situation. I was the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Education for a period of time when Bette Stephenson was the minister. She decided she was going to include the district of Parry Sound, which this government has continued in the same light, in northern Ontario for the purposes of six out of nine funding factors for the north.

I guess for the purposes of the Ministry of Education we are two thirds in northern Ontario and one third in southern Ontario, if that has any logic to it at all. I am not quite sure it does. I did not agree with the minister then and I do not agree with the minister now. I guess two thirds of a loaf

is better than none, but we would like the rest of the loaf.

The Ministry of Health poses a lot of problems in not recognizing the district as part of northern Ontario. It is a particular hardship to individual constituents as opposed to hospitals or institutions, although they feel the crunch as well.

The northern health travel grant program, which was announced by the predecessor of the current Minister of Health, I believe on December 1, 1985, if my memory serves me correctly, was announced in this House and the district of Parry Sound was not included. At that time, the distance one had to travel to a medical centre to be reimbursed was 300 kilometres.

I raised the issue almost immediately, I believe some 13 days later on December 13, 1985, with the then minister, the present Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston). He pointed out that this was a new program and that they would like to try it the way it was instituted for a year and see how things came about.

When I raised that very same issue with the Premier in the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Development, as he was the Minister of Northern Development and Mines at the time as well as being the Premier, he indicated that nothing was sacrosanct and that they would indeed look at including the district of Parry Sound when they refined the program.

About a year later, the program was refined, but much to my displeasure, although they lowered the distance from 300 kilometres to 250 kilometres, they still did not include the district of Parry Sound in the northern health travel grant program. Just about every single part of the district of Parry Sound is more than 250 kilometres from Toronto, for example. I know that quite well because I live in the town of Parry Sound, which is in the southwest corner of the riding, and it is slightly in excess of 250 kilometres for me to go home every week.

We have constituents, mainly cancer patients but other constituents as well with particular health problems, who travel to Princess Margaret and other hospitals and centres in southern Ontario on a regular basis for treatment. A lot of them cannot afford the travel cost out of their own pocket. Currently, they have to rely upon friends, relatives, neighbours, or in a great many cases service clubs, to provide transportation through way of volunteers.

There is a program the government has introduced, and I support that program fully, to help people in these situations, but we really feel that the people in the district of Parry sound

should be entitled to share in that program as well.

We have the odd situation in that Parry Sound riding is primarily the district of Parry Sound plus everything in the district of Nipissing lying east of North Bay, which includes all of Algonquin Park as well. There are many constituents in my riding who, although they are in the district of Parry Sound, particularly those along the south shore of Lake Nipissing, are farther north than many of my constituents in the district of Nipissing. The people who live in the district of Nipissing part of my riding are in northern Ontario for the purposes of all government ministries, but the people who live farther north in the district of Parry Sound part of the riding are not in northern Ontario; they are in southern Ontario. I do not know what sort of logic that makes. It does not make any to me.

When I raised this matter with the Premier in the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Development—I believe it was February 12, 1987—he indicated that the case I made was a rational one, to use his words, and he could not argue with me about it and that he would pursue his cabinet colleagues with renewed vigour, as he put it, after the February 1987 estimates to try to persuade them to develop some rationale for all government ministries.

Also, the Minister of Northern Development, the member for Cochrane North, has spoken at two of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities meetings—which Parry Sound hosted I might add; I believe it was in February 1986. The member for Cochrane North was then the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. He was the guest speaker at the final wrapup meeting of FONOM and he committed himself to including the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario for the purposes of all government ministries.

1110

He supported a resolution that was passed by FONOM at that meeting; a resolution not so dissimilar, I might add, to another FONOM resolution passed—I believe it was April 27, 28 or 29, 1977—some 10 years earlier to get Parry Sound into northern Ontario in the first place when the new Ministry of Northern Affairs was first formed.

Parry Sound municipalities have always been members of FONOM, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities. They have always fully participated in FONOM. I think geographically and demographically there is no doubt that the people who live in the district of Parry Sound

regard themselves as northerners, not as residents of central or southern Ontario.

I know the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) will remember that at one time, when redistribution hearings were going on, it was suggested that the district of Parry Sound and the regional municipality of Muskoka be combined in one riding, similar to the federal riding, which would be known as Parry Sound-Muskoka. I am sure the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay would prefer Muskoka-Parry Sound.

However, there were over 52 delegations, many of whom were individuals not municipal governments, that appeared at those hearings in Barrie and argued very strenuously that the district of Parry Sound had a different character. It is a territorial district; it is not a county and it is not a regional municipality. Territorial districts, I am sure other northern members will know, are peculiar to northern Ontario.

Mr. Black: As was Muskoka.

Mr. Eves: As was Muskoka, but as Muskoka is not now. I am sure my honourable colleague will be ready to admit that it happened many years ago—he probably knows better than I—when Muskoka decided to become a regional municipality. I believe 1970 rings a bell in my mind—somewhere thereabouts, anyway.

Many of the municipalities—in fact, I would say a majority of them—in the riding of Parry Sound are unorganized municipalities, which is certainly not the case in Muskoka or other points farther south. That is not unusual in territorial districts and it is not unusual in northern Ontario. There are some 35 organized municipalities in the riding of Parry Sound and well in excess of 50 unorganized municipalities. These people, for sure, regard themselves as northerners. They qualify for many programs ranging from police services under the Solicitor General, ambulance services, fire services, local service boards; all these entities are peculiar to northern Ontario.

As I said, some 10 ministries of government over the last 10 or 11 years have decided to come on stream and recognize the district of Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario. I really think it is about time the remaining ministries in the government decide to bite the bullet and include the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario.

It means dollars and cents; there is no doubt about that. That perhaps is the biggest hangup that each individual minister may have about including the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario. To the Ministry of Education it is

probably the most costly, followed by the Ministry of Health.

For the Ministry of Education alone, if the district of Parry Sound were included in northern Ontario and if all nine weighting factors attributed to other school boards in northern Ontario were attributed to the East Parry Sound Board of Education and the West Parry Sound Board of Education, I believe the figures would be something in the neighbourhood of the following: the East Parry Sound Board of Education would receive from \$250,000 to \$300,000 a year more from the province than it does now, and the West Parry Sound Board of Education would receive in the neighbourhood of \$200,000 to \$250,000 more in operating funding each and every year from the province than it does now.

The East Parry Sound Board of Education is probably one of the poorest in the province. It has a very low tax base. It has almost no industrial or commercial assessment. It is all residential assessment, much of that seasonal residential assessment as well, I might add, and it receives over 75 per cent funding from Ontario.

Members can compare that, for example, with some school boards in the Metropolitan Toronto area that receive almost none of their moneys from Ontario. We can readily see how dependent a board of education like the East Parry Sound Board of Education and its local ratepayers, taxpayers and constituents are on provincial government funding and what an impact another \$250,000 or \$300,000 a year would have on the educational process in the East Parry Sound board area.

West Parry Sound is a little bit more fortunate, although I am sure many residents there would disagree from time to time. They receive approximately 50 per cent of their funding from Ontario. There again, when we are talking about another \$250,000 a year to those two boards of education, we are talking about a significant impact on the educational system in the East and West Parry Sound boards.

Another ministry that would have a big impact is the Ministry of Transportation. We currently do not get a chance to share in the transportation and road budgets of the Ministry of Northern Development because MTC regards the district of Parry Sound as being part of southern Ontario.

There are many programs that many constituents of ours would like to see through the Ministry of Natural Resources which would probably not cost the government anything, or would cost it next to nothing to have implemented. but with, for example timber policies,

aggregate policies and simple things like hunting and fishing, in all those policies the district of Parry Sound is now treated as part of southern Ontario as opposed to part of northern Ontario.

When my colleague the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) was the Minister of Natural Resources—unfortunately, for too short a period of time—he had agreed with me and he had bought the argument, I might add to my colleague the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay, that Parry Sound should be included in northern Ontario and was in the process of doing the same when, unfortunately for him, he ceased to become the minister. His successor since has not honoured that commitment and has failed to deliver on it, despite the fact that I do not really believe it would cost the Ministry of Natural Resources anything.

As a matter of fact, for a while the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) was one and the same person as the Minister of Energy. While he had his Minister of Energy hat on Parry Sound was part of northern Ontario, but when he had his Minister of Natural Resources hat on Parry Sound was part of southern Ontario.

I suppose there is some logic in there somewhere. It seems to escape me. I will try to grapple with that. However, that is the way the situation is today and has been for some period of time. The Parry Sound District Municipal Association has been extremely active in passing resolutions on this subject in 1985, 1986 and 1987. They have submitted briefs to the government. I would be remiss if I did not point out to the House that, just recently, the Ministry of Northern Development has asked the Parry Sound District Municipal Association for yet another brief that it would like to receive by the middle of May, and that the cabinet committee on northern development would be prepared to consider such a brief from representatives of the Parry Sound District Municipal Association some time in July.

I do not really see where another brief is needed. There have been many resolutions, briefs and documents submitted to the government over the last three plus years. I think it is really time that we had some commitment with respect to this particular subject.

I will reserve the rest of my time, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Miclash: I would like to respond to the member for Parry Sound, if I may. I am familiar with the district of Parry Sound, as it is very similar to the Kenora riding which I represent. I feel the member for Parry Sound should be heard

in terms of his request. As the member has indicated, this request is not a new one and the member has been asking for this status for quite some time now. As a matter of fact, it actually goes back 11 or 12 years. I must ask the member, why has this initiative not been taken during the eight or nine years that it was presented to the previous Conservative government?

1120

As the member is well aware, our government is presently giving very serious consideration to the request in correspondence with the member for Parry Sound. This has been indicated to him a number of times. The effects on grant and program structure and demands are being sought. As I mentioned earlier, this issue is not a new one and a solution was never arrived at during the eight or nine years it was before our former Conservative government.

May I indicate that we are now operating on the Liberal time schedule, our time schedule, and will continue to check out the consequences of such a move on that particular schedule. May I point out that it was not until the fall meeting of 1986 that the Parry Sound District Municipal Association passed a resolution urging the provincial government to include the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario for purposes of all ministries and transfer payments to municipalities reflect this change in 1987. It was in the fall of 1986, not 12 years ago, when the idea was first introduced.

The ministers involved have looked at the requests and continue to take all factors that will affect the decision into account or to arrive at a satisfactory resolution to this issue. May I bring forth some of the ministers' findings thus far. As indicated by the member, all but the ministries of Health and Education do undertake their program reviews using the criteria of northern allowances for this region of the province.

In the Lawton study recently released, it was indicated that the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) was doing business in Parry Sound, adequately compensated under the present weighting factor, and that the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) is presently reviewing the findings of the study and will be meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins), the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) and the Minister of Education to discuss the inclusion not only of Parry Sound, but in the good Liberal fashion of the townships in the district of Nipissing as well. Those are five townships that are lying in the district of Nipissing.

This meeting is scheduled for May 3, next Tuesday. I am sure the member for Parry Sound will be waiting with anticipation for the results of this meeting. Thus members can see that when we are ready to make sure a move is in all indications a go, we will be talking about a much larger area than just what is requested by the member for Parry Sound.

Again, I go back to my original statement where I suggested that I saw many similarities in the regions of Parry Sound and my riding of Kenora, and the possible need for this area to be a part of the north for programs not already allotted to it. But I cannot support the motion at this time, as the Ministry of Northern Development, along with the others I have indicated earlier, are still in the midst of a study into the proposal. When the results are tabulated, assuming that the recommendations received are favourable for the inclusion of Parry Sound and the five townships I mentioned in the area of Nipissing, I will be in a position to take a more definite stance on this proposal.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to participate in this debate.

Mr. Laughren: I rise to my feet to support the resolution from the member for Parry Sound and to commend him for bringing it forward yet again and for making such compelling arguments in his remarks.

If I could speak directly to the people of Parry Sound this morning, I would say to them that they should be in northern Ontario. The entire district should be part of northern Ontario vis-à-vis all government programs. I say to the people in Parry Sound they have had a chance to be there with the previous government. There has been an opportunity for the present government to classify them as part of northern Ontario. Now they have one other option. This party would classify them as in the Parry Sound district immediately. I say that to the people in Parry Sound. The Tories had 42 years to do it. The Liberals have had three years to do it. That shows how sincere they are, despite the fact that the Premier himself agreed with the member for Parry Sound, because the member for Parry Sound makes very compelling arguments, I am sure members would agree.

The Minister of Northern Development agrees with the member for Parry Sound, but it does not happen. Therefore, you have to ask yourself, if the Premier wants to have Parry Sound considered part of northern Ontario and the Minister of Northern Development wants Parry Sound to

be part of northern Ontario, who does not want it there? Who is holding it up?

Mr. Epp: You.

Mr. Black: The NDP.

Mr. Laughren: This party supports it 100 per cent. We would put Parry Sound in the northern district and we would do it without delay as well.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: It must be the bureaucracy here at Queen's Park that is resisting this designation of Parry Sound. If it is not the Premier and it is not the minister, it must be the bureaucracy here. The Toronto-based bureaucracy is saying to the people in Parry Sound, "We know what's best and you're not going to be designated as part of northern Ontario."

What other reason could there be? You have the minister on side and you have the Premier on side, and yet it does not happen.

Mr. Black: They will probably do it.

Mr. Laughren: The member says they are going to do it, but the only government member to get up and speak, the member for Kenora (Mr. Micalash), a northerner himself—where is he, by the way?—gets up and speaks against the designation. I really do not understand that. The Premier agrees, the minister agrees and another northern member disagrees. My goodness, is the Liberal Party in total disarray at the provincial level too?

I do not understand it. As a northern member myself—and I drive between the constituency of Nickel Belt, which is north and west of Sudbury, to Toronto most weeks rather than fly—I can tell members that the Parry Sound riding is as much like the constituency I represent as it resembles any riding in the province, I presume.

It consists of small communities, tourism and bad roads, and that is a hallmark of northern Ontario. The maintenance of that highway is terrible. I am not saying that simply designating it as part of northern Ontario will turn that all around, but I want to tell you, Madam Speaker, that is truly a northern riding. Drive through it and try to make the argument that it is not a northern riding. Of course it is. It meets all the criteria for a northern part of this province: small communities, underserviced, poor roads, lack of government attention. That is the story of northern Ontario.

What I say to the member for Parry Sound is, "We want you in northern Ontario." There is strength in numbers. Perhaps the riding of Renfrew North should also be part of northern

Ontario, because the more of us there are the more clout we will have down here. I understand why the member for Parry Sound feels frustrated. His own government did not support him when he wanted his riding to be designated as part of northern Ontario. I understand that, and this government is no different.

That is why I say to the people of Parry Sound: "You've tried both the other parties. You've had a member on the government side and you've had a member in opposition and it hasn't worked. You've had a Liberal government and a Conservative government. It's time for the people in Parry Sound to make a change." Not that they are not well represented by the present member for Parry Sound; I am not suggesting that.

I think one of the reasons we feel it is necessary to be designated a northern riding is that there seems to be at least some awareness by government that if you are part of northern Ontario there needs to be more government intervention than there is in southern Ontario. Southern Ontario is a magnet for growth and for development and northern Ontario is not a magnet. Northern Ontario needs a push. It needs incentive for growth and development, and that is one reason I feel so strongly that it should be part of the north.

The health travel grant that the member for Parry Sound referred to is a good example. Why in the world would Parry Sound not be designated as a northern constituency for the purposes of the health travel grant? It meets the requirements for mileage. Yet the government still will not do it.

I thought it would be a matter of months before it happened, until the member for Kenora stood up and gave us the government line. I assume that did not just come from the member for Kenora; I assume that is the government line. I hope that people in Parry Sound are not holding their breath waiting for designation to be part of northern Ontario because I do not think the member for Kenora was freelancing it this morning. That was a very carefully crafted and prepared speech, and well delivered too. What he was saying was: "This is the government line, my friends. Don't hold your breath in Parry Sound because this government is really no different than the previous government."

1130

I look at my own constituency and in some ways Nickel Belt is similar to Parry Sound because of its size and because of small communities, resource extraction and so forth, except that Nickel Belt has some very major

resource extraction companies and has some major forestry operations, much bigger I think than Parry Sound has. So there is in some ways a stronger economic base in my riding. But we are happy that we are designated as a northern riding, and I have yet to hear one single good argument from this government or the previous government as to why Parry Sound is not designated as a northern Ontario constituency.

I was at that committee meeting where the member for Parry Sound was pushing the Premier to designate Parry Sound as a northern riding and the Premier could not argue against the member for Parry Sound, could not shoot down one of his arguments, as I recall. Members should ask themselves why in the world this is allowed to continue.

I do not know why the previous government did not do it either. I really do not know that, because it goes back not just, as the member for Parry Sound said, for a couple of months when the member for Nipissing was the minister. That was not a fair argument for the member for Parry Sound to make because many years before that there was agitation to have Parry Sound designated as a northern constituency, the whole, entire district to be designated as a northern riding for government purposes. I think there was ample opportunity for the previous government to designate it.

There have now been three years for this government to designate it as a northern riding. There is not a single reason why Parry Sound should not be designated as a northern riding. If the members think that it is really not the north, I invite them to drive up there, drive through the riding and take a look at it. It is very similar to virtually every other northern Ontario area. It is very much the same and it relies a great deal on tourism.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: Of course, it is a very beautiful constituency, but that does not mean it is getting its fair share.

Mr. Epp: I'm convinced, but keep talking. I may become unconvinced.

Mr. Laughren: That is what is so strange. Government members tend to nod their heads, ministers tend to nod their heads and say, "Yes, your arguments make a lot of sense," but nothing ever happens. Members should simply ask themselves this—and I hope the people in Parry Sound will ask themselves—"Why has there been no action?" Absolutely none. I say to the people in Parry Sound, "You have a right to be designated as a northern Ontario district, and we

will continue our fight down here to make sure that happens.”

Mr. Harris: I am delighted to be able to add a few comments to my colleague the member for Parry Sound's notice of motion, his resolution.

It is interesting that this resolution is back one more time. The fight for northern status started really with the formation of the Ministry of Northern Affairs. That was a commitment that was made in 1977 by the former government, a commitment for the first time in the history of Ontario to take a ministry and give it regional responsibility.

It has been one of the most successful ventures any government has ever undertaken in Canada as far as moving northern Ontario ahead in trying to rectify some of the regional disparities between northern Ontario and southern Ontario is concerned. It has continued over the last three years, and I am always intrigued when I ask the current minister a question about what he is not doing now. He recites a litany of programs, all of which were put in place by the former government, and we are proud every time he does it.

I want to tell members how proud we are of the Ministry of Northern Affairs, now the Ministry of Northern Development, and what it has meant for our communities in northern Ontario in equalizing to some extent some of the costs we bear, which are much higher than in southern Ontario by reason of geography, by reason of climate, by reason of distance or by reason of our smaller size and our lack of economies of scale in the various ministries. It has gone a long way to help.

That brings us to Parry Sound. The member for Parry Sound has indicated again today that it has been a 10-year fight. Being in northern Ontario or southern Ontario really did not matter before the creation of the Ministry of Northern Affairs. Members must understand that it is not a 42-year problem or a 44-year problem or a 45-year problem; it is a problem that Parry Sound identified quickly. The member at that time was one of the most outstanding members of this Legislature, Lorne Maeck, a very good friend of the people of Parry Sound, indeed a very good friend of the people of Nipissing and of northern Ontario. He was a good member.

Lorne Maeck started the fight. He recognized that it was a ministry-by-ministry fight. It really is. The object was to get various ministries to recognize for their program purposes that Parry Sound should be treated like the rest of northern Ontario. As the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) has pointed out, the riding of Parry

Sound is very similar to many of our northern ridings. In fact, he points out, and I am not ashamed to point out on behalf of Nipissing, that in many ways Parry Sound does not enjoy some of the advantages that Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Nickel Belt and Nipissing enjoy, the centres that we enjoy.

In Nickel Belt, the member mentioned the mining and the resource companies. In Nipissing, North Bay has become quite a development centre for the resource industries throughout northern Ontario. Even the town of Sturgeon Falls, with the MacMillan Bloedel plant there, has significantly improved life in west Nipissing, as have the other resource companies there. Parry Sound does not enjoy any of those things which many of the ridings in northern Ontario enjoy.

It makes sense, and Mr. Maeck, through his initial fight, was able to convince some of the ministers and some of the ministries that indeed they should consider Parry Sound as part of northern Ontario for grant purposes. It was significant, as he picked them off, I could say, one at a time.

What has been very significant is that the current member for Parry Sound, when he was elected in 1981, picked up that torch with vigour and carried on that fight. It was not a partisan fight; it was a fight on behalf of his constituents in Parry Sound.

As the member for Nickel Belt pointed out, the current Premier, either from lack of debating skills or lack of any base of logical argument—I would suggest a little of both—was unable to argue why Parry Sound ought not to be considered a part of northern Ontario for other ministries besides the 10 that are there now.

It has been a fight. The member for Parry Sound, who has now been here for seven years, has picked up, on average, about a ministry a year, I guess, except that it was all done in the first four years he was here, when the current government was there.

I would have preferred, and I am sure the member for Parry Sound would have preferred, if there had just been a blanket order, if you like, from the Premier to all ministers and ministries, “You shall consider Parry Sound as northern Ontario.” But the ministries have to have some time to adapt, they need funds from the Treasurer or they need to look at reallocation of resources. It has been that kind of fight.

I congratulate the current member for Parry Sound. Never has anybody fought more consistently or longer or harder on behalf of his constituents. What has happened in the past three

years is that the member has fought just as hard, in fact perhaps harder, because there has been more resistance there. In the last three years, not one single ministry has come on board and joined in the treatment of Parry Sound as a northern Ontario riding.

1140

Last year he brought forward a resolution that was supported unanimously by all three parties in this chamber. What has changed between last year and this year? Last year I guess everybody thought: "It's pre-election. If we're going to knock off old Eves, we're going to have to support Parry Sound for northern Ontario status. Our Liberal candidate there has to be able to go in the field and argue that indeed we support that."

Last year, before the election, the government supported the resolution. In the election last year, the Liberal candidate in Parry Sound, I remember very well, said: "Of course, our party supported it last year. That is our party's position too." Now we hear the member for Kenora saying: "Well, the election is over. We have a majority. We don't care about Parry Sound."

That is the kind of deceit I talked about in the budget debate. It is the kind of deceit we have seen on free trade. It is the kind of deceit we have seen on Sunday shopping. To bring that into the debate on something that I think all parties should agree on, and did agree on before the election—that is, the designation of Parry Sound as northern status—is rather shocking, I find.

I hope that it was just one misguided member's remarks and that in fact it was not representative of the Liberal caucus. It is not the kind of spirit of generosity and fighting on behalf of northern Ontario that Leo Bernier used to put forth in this House.

I also want to say that I understand there are some problems in the Liberal caucus on this issue. We heard remarks from the member for Kenora. In the last campaign, I was astounded that in the riding of Nipissing the Liberal candidate said, "No, I'm not in favour of the designation of Parry Sound, because that might take away from Nipissing or North Bay." It is that overparochial attitude that is probably the reason why that candidate is not here today.

I find it shocking that all members of this chamber are not willing to indicate a show of support, to put a hand out to the people of Parry Sound, to reach out and touch someone, other than taking money out of their pockets, which is the only thing that this government is doing, and to reflect for a moment, as we have heard from the member for Nickel Belt, the member for

Parry Sound and myself, on the plight of Parry Sound. I urge members to support this resolution.

The Acting Speaker: Does any other honourable member wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Miclash: Madam Speaker—

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Kenora has already spoken. You cannot speak again unless on a point of order.

Mr. Miclash: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: Let me clarify my position. What I wanted to say was that I—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Would you please phrase your comments on a point of order. It must be a point of order dealing with the standing orders.

Mr. Laughren: You're out of luck, Frank.

Mr. Miclash: Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: Does any other honourable member wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Kozyra: It is a pleasure to rise and speak in support of the resolution. The member for Parry Sound has made a very good case for inclusion—

Mr. Callahan: Wasn't that what the member for Kenora was saying? He was in favour of it too, wasn't he?

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kozyra: As parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Northern Development, over the past five months I have had the opportunity to work with northern development councils. The Parry Sound region is an important partner in the northern development council network. As one of those nine northern development councils, the Parry Sound region has provided valuable advice not only on regional matters but also on issues of government policy dealing with all of northern Ontario.

Let me reiterate the key points that the honourable members speaking before me have made. The Minister of Northern Development supports the resolution. There is a review of the impact from a redefinition that is presently under way. The member for Parry Sound has indicated the beneficial impact it would have on education and health to a region that is deserving of it. I understand the report is coming soon and that also the minister or the Premier will be making a statement on this, clarifying the position.

In conclusion, the issue has been debated for more than a decade. It is time for a decision. The time is now and I will be voting in support.

Mr. Hampton: I want to say right off the bat without any circumlocution or obfuscation that I and the other members of my party from northern Ontario support this resolution, and we support it fully.

I want to commend the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Kozyra) for also coming out in support of this resolution, because I think as my friend the member for Nickel Belt has said, it is long, long overdue. Having said that, I also want to review very briefly some of the excuses or some of the rationale offered by the member for Kenora and some of the comments offered by some of the other government back-benchers.

The member for Kenora referred to the fact that there was a Conservative government for quite a long while and it did not press this issue. He got some agreement from some of the government back-benchers, specifically the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney), whom I heard say, "All you need to do to get this through is to elect a Liberal member."

If that is the attitude of some of the government back-benchers, it is remarkably and strikingly like the attitude of the government in Ottawa. I know how unpopular that government in Ottawa has become, and I know exactly why it has become that unpopular: because that line of reasoning strikes at the central belief of most Ontarians and most Canadians in fairness in the sense that things ought to be judged on their merit and not on the basis of "Do we win a political angle on this, or do we lose a political angle on this?"

I want to say that kind of attitude, particularly displayed towards northern Ontario communities or districts like Parry Sound that have a lot in common with northern Ontario communities, is not a good one. It is not an attitude that is going to go very far in terms of promotion of this government in northern Ontario.

Mr. Epp: Why don't you reflect a positiveness out there for the people? Think positively.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Hampton: While the member for Kenora was speaking and while the member for Mississauga West was offering his comments, I happened to be reading an interesting article on what is called practical intelligence. The article says that one of the first and primary aspects of practical intelligence is not looking for an excuse: "Oh well, they didn't do it, so we won't do it." One of the first aspects of practical intelligence is not to approach problems in that way but rather to sit down and say: "This is the problem. What am I going to do about it?" Yet I

heard the member for Kenora and the member for Mississauga West supporting the idea that "The former regime didn't do anything about it, so why should we do anything about it?"

1150

Mr. Mahoney: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am the member for Mississauga West who is being referred to, and I do not believe that I have spoken on this matter. The member is putting comments into the record, attributing them to me, that are not legitimate.

Mr. Hampton: I accept the member's point of order, although I do not know what it was. I do not think that he knows what it was either.

To follow up, it seems that if this government were interested in dealing with the problems of northern Ontario, it would quit trying to use an excuse that the previous regime did not act on it, so it will not either. It would get down to looking at the problem on its merits and saying, "Look, something needs to be done."

I have to commend the member for Parry Sound for putting forward the issues on their merits. The fact of the matter is that large areas of Parry Sound district are not adequately serviced in terms of doctors, in terms of highways and in terms of other government departments. He is simply asking to be treated in a way that is fair and asking for his constituency to be treated in a way that is fair and asking that it be treated like a lot of other northern Ontario ridings that have similar problems and similar circumstances.

Based on the merits of the case, I think we should all support this resolution. It is a good resolution. It is one that will benefit a part of the province that is, as we would all admit, somewhat underdeveloped and that faces a fair number of disparities in terms of its present and future development.

I urge all the government back-benchers to put aside the excuse that, "The previous government didn't do it, so why should we?" and deal with the issue as practical, intelligent people would deal with it, looking at the problem on its merits and dealing with the problem on its merits. Let us move ahead and quit referring to yesterday's excuses and yesterday's reasons for not doing something.

Mr. Eves: It is my pleasure to wind up this debate, and I am pleased to see that members on all sides of the House are once again supporting this resolution. I might just make a few points, and my colleague the member for Nipissing has made similar ones, especially with respect to some of the comments the member for Kenora made.

It is not true that nothing happened under the previous government on this issue, as the member for Nipissing has rightly pointed out. Between 1977 and 1985, 10 2/3 ministries, if we include the Ministry of Education as being two thirds of a ministry with respect to northern status, have included the district of Parry Sound in northern Ontario and given it northern Ontario status.

I want to read to the House a quote from the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay) on this very same resolution, June 25, 1987. He was then the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Northern Development, and he said:

"It is actually up to the cabinet. I would like to assure the member for Parry Sound that this has the highest priority before cabinet right now, because of the Premier's interest in the topic.

"As the member will remember, it was the member for Parry Sound who brought this up in estimates. We are giving it active consideration."

We are here almost one year later—10 months—and I recently sent him a copy of a resolution passed by the town of Parry Sound on February 16, 1988:

"Whereas the Minister of Northern Development, the Honourable René Fontaine, has indicated on two different occasions that the district of Parry Sound should be considered as part of northern Ontario by all ministers of the provincial government, and

"Whereas the provincial Legislature unanimously agreed with the private member's bill presented by Mr. Ernie Eves on June 25, 1987, that this should be so, therefore be it resolved that we ask the Minister of Northern Development to present this resolution to the provincial government at his earliest convenience."

On March 9, 1988, I wrote to the minister, and the letter is as follows:

"Recently the town of Parry Sound sent you a copy of their resolution 88-59 regarding the still unresolved issue of full northern status for the district of Parry Sound. I enclose a copy for your information.

"As you are aware, gaining full northern status for the entire riding of Parry Sound has been a top priority, not only for the town of Parry Sound, but for all municipalities in the district. You will have received numerous resolutions to this effect from the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association over the past three years.

"As well, my private member's resolution of June 25, 1987, calling on the government to designate the district of Parry Sound as part of northern Ontario by all ministries received

unanimous consent in the Legislature. I have also brought this issue to the government's attention in the Legislature many times, as well as the Legislature's committee looking into the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

"As such, I am puzzled by the lack of any action by the government to take steps to grant uniform northern status to Parry Sound district, especially in view of the commitments made by the Premier and yourself to pursue this matter with your cabinet colleagues.

"Ironically, your ministry considers the district as part of northern Ontario and in fact has a northern affairs office in the town of Parry Sound. That the Ministry of Northern Development recognizes the district of Parry Sound economically, geographically and demographically as part of northern Ontario argues strongly for full northern designation by all ministries."

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Eves: In light of this, I would urge all members of the House to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker: Problem?

Mr. Miclash: If I may, I would like to correct the record, Mr. Speaker. Some of the members misunderstood some of my comments made earlier on this morning, and I just wish to indicate my support for the resolution put forth this morning.

Mr. Speaker: The clock will come to 12 in approximately two minutes. The standing orders say that we "shall" place these items at 12 o'clock. I just wonder if the House is agreeable that it is close enough.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry I cannot repeat what some of the members say. If it is agreeable, we will deal with the two matters before the House.

Agreed to.

1203

PENSION FUNDS

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of Mr. D. S. Cooke's resolution will please rise and remain standing until your name is called.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman), we are taking a division.

Interjections.

Mr. Runciman: Your daddy's got a government job. That's OK. Daddy's got a government

job. You are sick. You don't like it, do you? You don't like the truth. A gutless bunch who gave in and sold out.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You are mental, absolutely crazy.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Leeds-Grenville—

Interjections.

Mr. Runciman: You're a gutless bunch.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Leeds-Grenville, will you contain yourself?

Mr. Laughren: Throw him out.

Mr. Speaker: Will you?

Mr. Runciman: If I hear one more remark over there—

Interjections.

Mr. Runciman: I have no reservations whatsoever. You sold out. That is all there is to it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member for Leeds-Grenville take his seat?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member for Leeds-Grenville take his seat?

Mr. Runciman: I am prepared to restrain myself, Mr. Speaker, if that gutless bunch over there are prepared to restrain themselves.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member take his seat? I will have to ask that Mr. Runciman leave the chamber for the balance of the day.

Mr. Runciman left the chamber.

The House divided on Mr. D. S. Cooke's motion of resolution 20, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Farnan, Hampton, Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Pouliot, Swart, Wildman.

Nays

Adams, Ballinger, Black, Callahan, Carrothers, Cooke, D. R., Cunningham, Daigeler, Dietsch, Elliot, Epp, Fawcett, Fleet, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Keyes, Kozyra, LeBourdais, Lipsett, MacDonald, Mahoney, Matrundola, McCague, McLean, Miclash, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Offer, Owen, Pelissero, Pollock, Reycraft, Roberts, Smith, D. W., Sola, Stoner, Sullivan, Tatham, Villeneuve.

Ayes 15; nays 40.

RIDING OF PARRY SOUND

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Eves has moved resolution 25.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12:08 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

ESTIMATES

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I have a message from the Lieutenant Governor, signed by his own hand.

Mr. Speaker: The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1989, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly. Signed by His Honour Lincoln Alexander.

BUDGET DEBATE

Mr. Mackenzie: I would like to rise both to correct the record and to apologize to the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the House. In the course of my remarks on the budget yesterday, I attributed quotes both to the Treasurer and to the Premier which in fact were quotes of my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and not their quotes. It was done inadvertently, but it was totally incorrect. I want to apologize and set the record straight for that inaccurate attribution.

WORKER MEMORIAL DAY

JOUR DES ACCIDENTÉS DU TRAVAIL

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: May I ask for the unanimous consent of the House for a brief observance of Worker Memorial Day?

Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Today we are celebrating officially at the provincial level for the first time Worker Memorial Day. Let me begin by saying that the government wholeheartedly supports the initiative of Canada's labour movement in setting aside April 28 every year, the anniversary of the passage of the Workers' Compensation Act, as an annual day of mourning and recognition. In keeping with this occasion, flags at this Legislature and at the Ministry of Labour offices are being flown at half-mast throughout the day. I have urged others in the province to do the same.

It is important to put our feelings into words at moments such as this, but words alone are not enough. I suggest that we make this day not only a day of mourning and of recognition for those workers who have suffered fatal injuries, for those workers who have suffered other injuries, including industrial disease in the workplace, to be mourned and to be recognized, but that also we rededicate ourselves.

Let us all here in this House, and in the ranks of labour and management throughout this province, make each April 28 an occasion for renewing our common commitment to the task of making the workplaces of Ontario safer and healthier.

All around the province, workers are joining together in memorial services. They are joining together to remember their brothers and sisters who have suffered from workplace accidents and workplace illnesses. I had an opportunity a few moments ago, just one hour ago, to join workers at Scotia Plaza to remember workers who had been injured and who had died on that site. We remember all too well that only last August 29 two Portuguese workers suffered terrible, shocking deaths as a result of an accident with an elevator. In the name of those two workers and all of the other workers in this province who have suffered industrial accidents and industrial diseases, we make this rededication.

I would like to request the unanimous consent of this House for a moment of silence in recognition of those workers who have died or suffered grievous injury as a result of workplace accidents or illnesses. I do so in the hope that, as we intensify our collective efforts to reduce the toll of occupational accidents and illnesses, each April 28 in coming years will give us less cause to mourn.

Mr. B. Rae: I am very proud as a member of this House to have been able to move the resolution which brought this assembly and Ontario into the family of those who are observing this day as a day of mourning for those who have died and been injured on the job.

I was present at the commemorative ceremony at the Scotia Plaza this afternoon. As I was standing there in the shadow of the greatest towers of financial and economic power in our province, I was reminded of all those who talk about the importance of rewarding people who take risks. It seems to me that the people who take risks most visibly in our society are not those who work inside those towers but the workers who build them.

It is the workers who have built this wonderful province of ours, the loggers, the people who have worked in the bush and whose backs go out when they are 45 or 50. It is the miners who suffer in some cases lifelong disease because of their exposure to substances underground and who take risks because of the catastrophic

accidents. It is the men and women who work in our factories, many of which remain unsafe. It is the people who work as policemen. It is the people who work as firemen. It is the people who work in our hospitals, our nursing homes and our psychiatric institutions, who take a very special kind of risk. It is our farmers and fishermen. It is people in all lines of work who are on the unique front line that exists in our society, the front line of those who take risks because of the jobs they do.

I think it is especially fitting that we would take this day as the one day of the year in this province where we attempt to focus our minds and energy on what is nothing short of a provincial scandal, the number of workers who continue to be injured on the job and the number of workers who die. I am very proud, as I say, to have been responsible in a small way for the fact that the House is taking this day as a day on which we will have these speeches and remember those who have died and been injured.

Our hearts go out to those, and all of us in this place have come into contact through the work we do with those who have had to accept an early accident or accept a tragic death as part of their lives. Our hearts go out to those, but in expressing our sense of solidarity and compassion for those who have died and been injured and their families, we must also do more than that. Just as on Remembrance Day we say the words "never again," so too on this day we should say the words "never again".

C'est naturellement avec une certaine fierté que je note que la Chambre a accepté une motion de notre parti sur la question de reconnaître aujourd'hui une réalité du travail: la réalité du risque réel que court la grande majorité de la population qui travaille. Non seulement nous nous souvenons, avec compassion et solidarité, de ceux qui sont morts, de ceux qui ont été blessés au travail, mais nous nous souvenons aussi de leur famille.

Mais il y a plus que le souvenir. Nous avons non seulement le devoir de nous souvenir mais le devoir de lutter pour la justice sociale et pour la sécurité du travail, sécurité qui n'existe pas présentement. Moi, ainsi que les membres de mon caucus et de notre parti, nous nous engageons tous à continuer à lutter pour la justice envers les travailleurs et pour la sécurité des travailleurs. Enfin, nous aurons une province dont nous pourrions tous être fiers.

1340

Mr. Harris: We wish to pause also for a moment today to recognize this day, April 28, as

a day of mourning for the Canadian workers who were the unfortunate victims of work-related injury, accident and disease in Ontario. I want to thank the member for York South for bringing forward the concept of this day on a regular, annual basis.

We recognize and honour those dedicated Ontarians, including all those who have emigrated from many other countries to our great province, who have put themselves in danger and at risk in the workplace, whether it be in mining, forestry, factories or the many other industries and occupations, some of which the member for York South mentioned today.

We are mindful that there are some 500,000 people in Ontario who were the victims of work-related accidents in 1987. Some 238 people died as a result of industrial accident or disease flowing from conditions at work last year. We honour and remember these people and all those who have gone before, and their families. As the flags of the province are flown at half-mast today, we mourn with them their losses and their tragedies. We congratulate them on their courage.

Certainly, this day is an opportunity for us to reflect as well on the need for improved occupational health and safety and for greater care in the workplace. It is crucial for the government of Ontario always to be concerned and show initiative in ensuring that the very best, the most advanced health and safety measures are integrated into our industries, our factories and our businesses across Ontario.

We in the Progressive Conservative Party join the other two parties today to show our respect and pay solemn tribute to all those who have sacrificed their health and their lives on the job while providing service to our province and to the people of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: As requested, I ask all members to rise and join with me in a minute's silence in recognition of the victims of work-related accidents and illnesses.

[The House observed one minute's silence.]

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

MAYWORKS '88

Miss Martel: In light of the sombre proceedings, I must say my statement is not as sombre. I apologize to the members that it follows next in the order of business.

However, congratulations and best wishes are in order for the many talented and devoted people who have organized this year's Mayworks, the third annual spring festival of working people

and the arts, which will be held at various venues in Toronto from April 30 to May 6.

One of this year's predominant themes is, "No to the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal," but the festival also features photography, visual arts, plays, poetry, prose readings, music, films and, of course, the May Day parade. The Mayworks festival is one of the few in North America, and the first of its kind in Canada, which brings together trade unionists and artists in a collective expression of working-class experience and values. It will feature workers' art and personal reflections of labour history.

One of the highlights of Mayworks '88, which I would like to commend to all members, is called Shift Change. It is a presentation by the Canadian Auto Workers, Local 303, which will occur on Thursday, May 5. Shift Change features a tour of the Scarborough General Motors plant, an exhibition of photos, paintings and cartoons by members of Local 303, entertainment by Ground Zero Productions in The Free Trade Show and Music in the Workplace by the Ruth Budd quintet. The program promises to be an exciting example of works of art by working people.

I commend Mayworks '88 to all members and I encourage all Ontarians to support this excellent endeavour. I am sure all members would like to join in wishing Mayworks '88 every success.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Villeneuve: I rise to report that the people of eastern Ontario have once again been seriously deceived by the Liberal government of Ontario. In the budget, the thought of providing for needed economic development in the east was completely forgotten by a government which has lost any concept of proper spending priorities. Our only hope was in the recognition that population growth around Ottawa had created a need for new schools in the area.

In my riding, Kemptville is rapidly becoming a bedroom community for the people working in Ottawa. This has been recognized by the Leeds and Grenville County Board of Education, whose first and second priorities for capital funding were and still are a new elementary school and major renovations to North Grenville District High School. Neither received funding in the minister's announcement. Following the minister's recent announcement, I can only add my voice to the disappointment felt by the Leeds and Grenville board and the people in the Kemptville area.

I also want to express disappointment in the case of Ecole Sainte-Thérèse-D'Avila in Marionville. This school rests on the border of three school boards and draws pupils from all three boards. As a result, it is never a top priority and has been ignored again. Surely it should be seen as a special case. When the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) was the Minister of Education, he did his best to ignore this school, and the new minister is no different.

When eastern Ontario receives only 11 per cent of the grants announced and 10 boards receive nothing, we know the government is not meeting its obligations to the people of eastern Ontario.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Velshi: I would like to bring to the attention of members of this Legislature a matter of grave concern and urgency. I refer members to the plight of those individuals presently being held on death row in South Africa, known to most as the Sharpeville Six.

As members will know, these persons are not simply political prisoners but are also innocent victims of an immoral regime. Not one of these persons was found to have been involved in a killing, but rather they were chosen as examples to those who would dare protest the treatment of blacks in South Africa and were sentenced to death by hanging for no more heinous crime than being there at the time.

Protests to the South African government from around the world were effective in bringing about a temporary stay of execution recently, but time is rapidly running out. I urge each and every member of this House to write to the South African Ambassador in Ottawa and the South African President, P. W. Botha, protesting in the strongest possible manner the treatment of these people at the hands of that government, and I urge members to do it now.

Surely this type of racist tyranny went out with the Middle Ages. I pray it will soon be proved to have no place in this or any other state in our modern world.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Mackenzie: A number of years ago, the labour movement launched a major campaign to publicize the need for safer workplaces. The number of deaths and injuries was and still is inexcusable. The legacy of workplace fatalities is being paid for to this day by the widows and children of those killed in industrial, mining and construction accidents.

Getting action to correct unsafe conditions and to deal with the increasing problem of new and old toxic substances was difficult and always involved a fight when it cost money. The labour movement used tough words to launch that campaign: "Stop the slaughter in the workplace."

Unfortunately, the problem still exists today. I think we have won the battle to establish the legitimacy of the workers' concerns. My colleague the NDP leader's motion for a day of mourning, passed by this House, has led to the tribute of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) here today. This tribute is important, but it will mean absolutely nothing if we are not moved to complete the job of providing safer workplaces, a job started by the organized labour movement of Canada.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Wiseman: As this government has shown its complete lack of commitment to eastern Ontario by giving it only 11 per cent of the total money for school boards' capital spending, I suppose I should not be surprised that vital projects in my riding were ignored.

However, I would like the House to be aware of the plight of the R. Tait McKenzie School in Almonte. This is a school for the trainable retarded that was denied the \$94,000 it desperately needed to expand its facilities.

1350

The irony of this situation is that it was forced upon the Lanark County Board of Education by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. In his wisdom, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) had decreed that the residents of Rideau Regional Centre must get out into the community. As a result, the McKenzie school has now three new nonambulatory students, with their wheelchairs, stretcher beds, etc., and nowhere to put them.

It seems the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) do not care and feel no responsibility for their colleague's decision. We have one arm of government making policy and the other refusing to pay for it. Unfortunately, the ones who are suffering are the students.

These young people have equal rights to quality education. Without proper facilities, this right will be denied them. I urge the Treasurer and the Minister of Education to reconsider their decision.

HELP CENTRES

Mr. Carrothers: During the last session of this Legislature, a number of questions were

raised about the funding of employment help centres in Ontario. Particular reference was made to the 50-Plus help centre which is located in my riding.

From conversations I had with the directors of 50-Plus, a number of problems emerged. These were problems also experienced by other help centres in Ontario. It was noted that help centres found the Ministry of Skills Development's funding levels inadequate and that many centres found it difficult to raise matching funds, as required under program criteria.

Responding to these concerns, the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling) has kindly informed me of a number of important changes in the government's support for help centres. The ministry will continue to support the employment counselling and training referral activities of help centres. These centres will be eligible for up to \$90,000 for employment counselling services, a 20 per cent increase in the eligible funding from the previous limit of \$75,000.

In addition, the ministry will no longer require that centres show evidence of matching revenues to be eligible for funding. These changes reflect the recommendations of help centres like 50-Plus from Oakville.

I am sure all members of this House will acknowledge that the economic growth we are currently experiencing often requires many employment changes during an individual's working life. In the case of 50-Plus and Ontario's help centres, it is evident the ministry is acting responsibly and quickly to help those of us facing these unknown changes in the future.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr. McLean: I want to direct this statement to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). His ministry is exceptionally quick off the mark when it comes to closing down municipal landfill sites, but its record in coming up with alternatives leaves much to be desired.

He was quick in shutting down the Pauzé landfill site, which forced six municipalities into the costly process of taking their garbage to Toronto. Then he warned Rama township and Orillia township. Then he came in and closed down those municipalities. They have to ship their garbage now to the city of Orillia.

If the minister keeps this up, we will soon reach the point where there will be more garbage than automobiles on Ontario's highways. I have told him many times before, but it bears repeating. The time has come to throw his support behind a province-wide program to

recycle glass, plastic, paper and aluminum. The time has come for him to set up alternative landfill sites. It is about time he stuck his nose in the garbage and solved our problem in Ontario.

ORAL QUESTIONS

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. B. Rae: I naturally have some questions today for the Minister of Labour with regard to the question of health and safety and workers' compensation, for which the minister has responsibility.

The minister has twice today made powerful statements of intent with respect to health and safety, though I note with interest that he did not read that section in his written statement which talked about how health and safety conditions are improving, since in fact more people died this year than last year on the job, there are more accidents this year than last year and the rate of increase is continuing to grow.

The question I specifically have for the minister is, how can he justify making these kinds of pious declarations at the same time his government has failed to bring in legislation reforming our health and safety laws? The last person who tried to do it was the Minister of Labour the last day of the previous Liberal government. It is now nearly a year since that event took place and we still do not have any new legislation. We have no new legislation on workers' compensation.

The question I have for the minister is, when are we going to get the legislation and the laws that will get the number of accidents down, that will get the accident rate down and will start protecting human life in this province, which is the obligation of all of us in the House?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think the initial part of the Leader of the Opposition's question was when would the minister stop making pious statements. Particularly on a day like today, I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition it is not a day for pious statements. We have just had a moment of silence in this Legislature commemorating, remembering and rededicating ourselves to the issues of health and safety.

As to the second part of his question about the timing for legislation, I simply say to him what I have said before in this House. My ministry and I are working on substantive amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act and substantive amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. We will be bringing forth, I expect in the near future, although I cannot tell him when precisely, amendments to both of those bills.

Our initiative in that regard will be to try to bring health and safety squarely to the forefront, not only of one group within the workplace but every single one of the workplace parties, so that it is as important to presidents as it is to apprentices to make sure every workplace in Ontario is a safe workplace.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister has not even produced legislation to cabinet; that is how far back he is in the process. The House leaders have had their meetings, and we know health and safety legislation is not even on the list of must-have legislation. We do not have one significant piece of legislation with respect to health and safety; we have not had one since the minister took office.

I wonder if the minister would comment on a case which I heard about while I was speaking with the minister at the Scotia Plaza. I met with some workers from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers trade union who work at a company called Solar Basic, which has 170 employees. They advised me that the employees, right as we speak now in fact, are having to interrupt work and to sit down on the job. There is a work refusal involving all the employees in that plant, because they are so dissatisfied with the inspections from the Ministry of Labour and so dissatisfied by the enforcement from the Ministry of Labour. This situation is going on right now as we speak, and it is not the first time it has happened. In fact, we have raised other cases.

I would like to ask the minister, when is he going to bring in the legislation? Give us a date. Can he give us the assurance that at the very least it will be prior to our breaking up in the month of June?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am delighted that the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting that we do recess this House some time early or late in the month of June. Who knows? The way in which the New Democratic Party has been conducting itself in this House would suggest perhaps that would not be the case, but I hope it will be the case and I sincerely hope, and I have said this on other occasions, that when the bill is introduced in this House—when the bills, in fact, are introduced in this House—we will have legislative co-operation so that we can analyse those pieces of legislation and ensure that they are the appropriate measures.

In crafting those bills, it seems to me important that we do all the analysis necessary so the measures are right and they are productive. I am not about to simply respond to the timetable of

the Leader of the Opposition, rather than do the homework that is necessary to ensure that we are proceeding in the right direction.

Mr. B. Rae: My final supplementary to the minister is simply this: last week I met with the victims of mining exposure, the widows of miners who have died in Timmins and in the Timmins area over the last number of years. The minister will know that the Workers' Compensation Board has finally produced criteria, allegedly for the compensation of the families of miners who have died.

I would like to ask the minister, what is he going to do? Previous ministers of labour have had to contend with this.

What is he going to do when he finds, as I have, that Mrs. Clarence Pitts, Georges Delorme, Mrs. Lapointe, Mr. Mayrand, Mr. Raymond—and the cases will go on; I will be glad to give the minister details of these cases—all have been disqualified by the Workers' Compensation Board under the criteria which have been established by the board for the simple reason that perhaps they started mining in 1943 or 1944 and worked less than 30 years, or perhaps it was 29; all the technical reasons? We had it in the sintering plant in Nickel Belt. We have had it in mine after mine. When is the minister going to appreciate that people are being denied benefits under the so-called criteria established by his own Workers' Compensation Board?

1400

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Leader of the Opposition makes a point of it that he has met with widows in Timmins. I just want to say to him that I met with those widows as well on my last visit to Timmins and had extensive conversations with them about the particular predicament they are in. The Leader of the Opposition has met with others and so have I. I have met with the Union of Injured Workers to hear its views on where we should be going on workers' compensation. I have met on a number of occasions with other community groups and with other organizations that are collectively helping to ensure that as we proceed with amendments, we go in the right direction.

Let me, if I can, make a comment on the criteria for those who have suffered cancer as a result of their work in gold mines prior to 1945. Those criteria have been established after extensive work by a number of different parties and based on a number of reports. As a result of that work, some \$35 million in benefits is going to be paid out. But more important than that, I tell the Leader of the Opposition that the process has not

been completed and that further studies are being done, in particular studies of those workers who worked in gold mining post-1945. Studies are also being done to establish whether there are links between gold mining and the development of stomach cancer.

It would be unfortunate if the Leader of the Opposition left this House or the public with the impression that this work has come to an end, because it clearly has not.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. B. Rae: One of the women I met with last week asked the simple question, "Why should I have to wait while the minister trains on the job?" I think that is precisely how a great many workers feel.

Mr. Speaker: Is this a question to the Minister of Labour?

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Education. I wonder if the minister can confirm, with respect to the announcements he made earlier this week for capital allocations to the school boards, that these allocations begin in 1989-1990. Can he confirm that?

Hon. Mr. Ward: Yes, the allocations begin in the coming fiscal year.

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if I might then ask the minister, does he not think it would be wise, in terms of the importance of these allocations for all school boards, if in making these announcements he indicated clearly, publicly, in a serious statement in this House, precisely which boards applied, how much they applied for, what were the purposes of their requests, and precisely what are the criteria, what is the point system, what is the ranking system that is used by the ministry in reaching its decisions?

I am sure the minister will appreciate that boards that were not successful this year will want to know why and will want to know what has to be done in terms of applying next year. I think we would all be better off if it were more of a public process than the one we now have.

Hon. Mr. Ward: Last Monday, I made a statement in the Legislature that gave the overall parameters of the coming fiscal year's capital allocation for school boards throughout Ontario. The following day, boards throughout the province were notified how they had fared in terms of their individual projects.

I might say to the honourable Leader of the Opposition that boards are well aware how the

funds flow. It has been the same process year in, year out, for quite some time. Also, boards are well aware of the criteria used in terms of the methods by which regional offices rate the projects on an individual basis. As I indicated on Monday, the prime focus would be on the provision of new-pupil places and the biggest criterion in making that determination was the amount of enrolment growth.

Mr. B. Rae: I am sure the minister would agree with me that confidence from all the public in this process has got to be the bottom line, and I am sure the minister would agree with me that this public confidence will only be increased if all the information is on the table and if the government is seen as acting in as public and as accountable a way as possible.

In terms of what the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said yesterday about how all this information was going to be made available in estimates, would the minister agree to table whatever information he has with the House today? Would he also agree that it would make sense for the government to state clearly, precisely what are the costs of Bill 30 with regard to the announcements that have been made and also precisely how much money is being set aside for renovation and repair of older schools in established school districts so that some sense of balance can be achieved in terms of the announcements that are being made?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am happy to make available to all members of the House guidelines for the approval of school accommodation needs and an elaboration of the process that takes place, as well as information relative to what boards have requested.

I point out once again to the Leader of the Opposition that on Monday of this week I indicated clearly that a conscious decision was made to flow most of the funds available this year to the creation of new pupil places. I indicated at that time that some 91 per cent of all funds committed would go for the provision of new pupil places. This was done in response to what I and this government perceived to be a critical need, particularly in growth areas of this province.

Mr. Speaker: New question. The member for Nipissing.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

[Applause]

Mr. Harris: That is not bad; it is more than I had yesterday.

I have a question for the Treasurer. The government has said to hospitals: "You must

perform these services. They are open-ended services. You must treat everyone who comes knocking on your door." While hospitals can estimate how many people will be sick and need help, they have no control over what those numbers will be. Instead of asking them to budget based on established efficiencies, which I understand, why is the Treasurer penalizing all hospitals by saying: "It doesn't matter if the reason for your deficit is beyond your control. It doesn't matter if it is because you are fulfilling the mandate we are telling you to fulfil. We will not pay for any deficits, no matter what caused them"?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The process of establishing the budgets is not as simple as the honourable member describes. The budgets themselves are put forward by competent administrators and reviewed by local hospital boards composed of citizens who have given of their time and their talent, often a business talent, to assist in the administration of this essential local enterprise.

These are vetted by the Ministry of Health, with certain formulae associated with the rate of growth and with factors dealing with the increased utilization by residents of Ontario using hospital services. These budgets are established with the very best administrative talent available and they are approved on that basis. We expect the administrators to offer their service within the confines of those approved budgets.

Mr. Harris: I understand how the budgets are established. What I am saying to the Treasurer is that after the year is over—the budgets are done a year in advance—the Treasurer and the ministry send in review teams to see if they are operating efficiently. If they are and if the reason for the deficit is that they are meeting the increased usage and the health needs, as the government has mandated and told them they must do, would the Treasurer not agree that these hospital deficits then, when they are operating efficiently, should be covered by the government?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: There is a good deal of flexibility in the budgets that are established. The honourable members know that the transference in general to hospitals this year is something just under seven per cent. As a matter of fact, there are other payments that are associated with hospital services beyond that. This does not mean that all hospitals get the same rate of growth. Many of them are growing this year at 10 per cent, because it is recognized that the community they serve is changing quite dramatically.

The honourable members, in consulting with their own hospitals, may be very well aware that in most cases the hospitals live within their budgets and are sometimes, particularly those that are good administrators, somewhat offended when nearby hospitals serving the same sorts of communities have the deficit picked up, even with an admonition, as has happened in the past.

We feel that the budgetary process is fair and equitable, but it does not provide an open-ended service because our budgetary process for hospitals cannot do that. We have to have a specific number allocated for that purpose and we intend to stick to it.

1410

Mr. Harris: Yesterday, before the Treasurer stomped away from the media in a snit, he told them that a budget is a budget is a budget and the hospitals must live within it. Is this not a case of the pot calling the kettle black?

The Treasurer sets his own budget and he sets it all by himself. In the last three years, he was \$300 million over budget, \$1,079,000,000 over budget and \$540 million over budget. That has been the Treasurer's experience when he gets to set his own budget.

I ask the Treasurer again, does he really think it is fair to order hospitals to carry out what is surely his open-ended mandate, unless he is telling them to turn people away when they are sick and that it depends on how many people use their services and, on the other hand, he tells them—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Harris: —they must live within a budget that he controls and that he approved one year in advance of having to deliver these open-ended services? Does the Treasurer really think that is fair?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think it is fair and correct. The honourable member will be aware that he and his colleagues are constantly pressing on me as Treasurer the increase in expenditures for any number of very worthy programs. As a matter of fact, a quick addition would indicate that from opposition members there are strong recommendations to increase our expenditures by \$10 billion. At the same time, they are very much against any tax increases, and I am always receiving the kind of gratuitous advice that has just come from the honourable member, that I should be more careful of my own budget.

I think our budgetary procedure is very good here. One of the things upon which it is based is when we make our allocations to colleges and

universities, municipalities, hospitals and other transfer recipients, we expect their budgetary process to be businesslike. We have given them full and fair warning, accompanied by increased expenditure and support, that this year we are not going to pick up deficits under the circumstances that they have been picked up in the past.

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Premier. I would like to return to the issue of the Meech Lake accord. Yesterday, the Premier was quoted as saying to my leader that it was unclear what was going to happen to the accord as a result of the Manitoba election. Today, we read that according to Ms. Carstairs, the leader of the Liberal Party in Manitoba, and I quote, "Meech Lake is dead." Can the Premier tell us in this House whether he shares that view, or does he believe that the accord can be saved in any way?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not accept the view that it is dead. I accept the view that the circumstances have changed very substantially in the last year really, with the situation in New Brunswick as well as in Manitoba.

Ms. Carstairs is not the Premier of Manitoba and in the immediate future it does not appear she will be. The Premier there, I understand, has indicated that he supports Meech Lake. I am not sure of the position of the New Democratic Party there, which holds the balance of power. I do not know the legislative agenda of the Premier of Manitoba in that regard. As the member knows, it requires only a matter of its being passed by the Legislature. I am sorry I cannot help my honourable friend with any certainty about what will happen there.

Mr. Eves: Very early in the debate on Meech Lake, the Premier told us that he would not allow any amendments to the accord. He said the accord would have to be accepted as it is or not at all. Since that time, the Premier of New Brunswick, of course, Ms. Carstairs, the federal Senate and a number of federal MPs have all suggested amendments; and I might suggest not to destroy the accord but to strengthen the accord, in their view.

Amendments to the accord may well be the only method which will save it and still have Quebec able to sign the Constitution. Will the Premier take a leadership role in this matter and propose amendments to the accord that could very well bring it back from the death that Ms. Carstairs is predicting?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With great respect to my honourable friend, I do not think I agree with his

analysis. It is not a question of whether I accept amendments or not. That is not the issue. The issue is whether other premiers will accept amendments. What will Quebec's reaction be in that regard? What will the western premiers' reaction be in that regard? Will they accept amendments or will they just say, "No, it is gone"?

That requires the member and others to make a political assessment in that regard. If my honourable friend has evidence that that is doable across the country, then he could proceed with that line, but I think my honourable friend has misjudged my influence or power in this particular regard and the national reaction to any action in any particular province.

Mr. Eves: Yesterday in the House, the Premier indicated that there is a very serious difference between Mr. Bourassa and perhaps some others with respect to the accord. I accept that. We all know that. On this side of the House we are proposing that he, as the Premier of Ontario, act to bridge that difference.

As a member of the select committee, I can tell members that in studying the Meech Lake accord, we have heard from over 140 groups so far in the proceedings. The vast majority have proposed some very meaningful and constructive amendments, which, in their view and the view of many others, would help to strengthen the accord.

I think one view that cannot be ignored is the proposed amendment to section 16 of the accord to protect women's equality rights and the rights of other Canadians that were granted under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Surely the Premier is aware of the ambiguity that is currently in section 16 and the diverse opinion out there from experts on both sides about it.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Eves: Will the Premier of Canada's largest province take the initiative and approach the Prime Minister of Canada and the other premiers to see if this one very important issue, on which surely none of the 11 first ministers in Canada can disagree—will he take the initiative to bridge that gap?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I appreciate the honourable member's advice in this regard and his own views on the accord and certain sections, particularly the one that could be improved upon. I am not standing in front of my honourable friend and saying it could not improved upon but I think if my honourable friend feels strongly about this, he should take it to his federal leader,

the Prime Minister, who has said he could not contemplate any change in this regard.

I am the Premier of Ontario. I am not the Prime Minister of Canada. I say to my honourable friend that he may want to make this suggestion to his Prime Minister, to his federal leader, whose party he shares, that he should bridge the gap in that regard between Manitoba and Quebec or between New Brunswick and Quebec. Our Prime Minister has said he does not contemplate any amendments. The member may be able to persuade him. I am sure reasonable people across this country who want to see Quebec part of this Constitution would in fact—

Mr. Eves: You don't want to take that role.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: No, I am not the Prime Minister and I do not want to be the Prime Minister. But my honourable friend who does—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: But he is the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: He may very well want to take the member's advice.

OFFICE OF THE WORKER ADVISER

Mr. Hampton: My question is for the Minister of Labour. The minister will know that the worker adviser offices around the province, those offices that are established to help workers put their cases before the Workers' Compensation Board, are severely backlogged.

I want to ask the Minister of Labour about just one office, the worker adviser office in Thunder Bay. That office recently lost one of its worker advisers. He was promoted to become the manager, so he can no longer handle cases. A worker who went to the worker adviser in Thunder Bay last month was told: "Sorry. We can't help you now. We have 287 other files to deal with. We are backlogged to June 1987. Call us again in four or five months and maybe we can help you." This is a fellow who has no income since he left his work.

Mr. Speaker: And your question?

Mr. Hampton: What is the minister doing to help the people who are in this severe, desperate situation? What is the minister doing about the worker adviser offices?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member raises a very important issue. The situation in Thunder Bay is frankly a situation we are confronting in some other offices. I think the office of the worker adviser program is in some respects a victim of its own success. Nevertheless, I can tell my friend that I am considering some steps right now to see how we can alleviate that backlog.

I just want to add that the real solution will be to bring forward initiatives, and I have mentioned to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) that those initiatives are forthcoming, to deal with some of the issues that give rise to the situation that has workers who are injured in the workplace coming for help to offices of the worker adviser around the province.

1420

Mr. Hampton: The minister says that he has initiatives under way to solve the problem. I want to just tell him how severe the problem is. In the Hamilton office, the backlog, the wait list is eight months. In Windsor, people are backlogged to January 1987. They have over 100 people on the wait list. In Sault Ste. Marie, there are 127 people on the wait list. They are scheduled back to March 1987. In Sudbury, it is four months on the wait list.

All of those situations are there. Many of these people do not have any other income. But we have also learned that people who were hired last year to help deal with this backlog are being told they are done as of August 31. They are gone. We have also been told that the worker adviser office has been told it is not getting any more money. The money it had last year is all it gets.

Are those the initiatives the minister is talking about? What is he doing? These are people who do not have an income and who are injured.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Sometimes it is the case that members of the New Democratic Party are the victims of their own misinformation. I did not say that there are initiatives in place. I said that we are contemplating some steps to deal with the backlog and I hope in the near future to be making a statement in this House as to how we are going to do that.

Meanwhile, I reiterate that the program, just about two years old, is again the victim of its own success. One of the things that has happened that I find a little bit disconcerting is that members not only of this party but also of the other parties, members of this assembly, have in certain cases in their own constituency offices said: "We are not going to deal with the worker's compensation cases any more. We are going to simply refer people to the office of the worker adviser." I hope that is not the case.

I know in the case of my own constituency office, notwithstanding that there is an office of the worker adviser nearby, that we continue to have a substantial case load of worker's compensation clients, whom we can often help in very short order. So one of the things that can be done for the working people of this province is for me

and my colleagues in this House to continue the kind of traditional service that all of us have been delivering for some years.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mrs. Cunningham: My question is to the Premier. He will recall that we have asked for a public inquiry into the Lieutenant Governor's warrant system in the light of the brutal attack, a whole month ago now, on a 14-year-old London girl by two patients of the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital who were out on unescorted day passes. However, the government refused to initiate a public inquiry and instead told this House that it was doing an internal review. It is very important. We really want to know about the findings of that internal review now. Does the Premier have the answer?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I will refer that to the Solicitor General.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: From the very beginning, this has been a very sad and difficult case and one that, of course, has stirred a great deal of concern in the community of London and also in St. Thomas.

As the member well realizes, the fact is that this committee and this whole group is directly under the criminal law of the federal government and not in any way under the control of the province. However, I did say, and I am happy to have said at the time that this occurred, that I would inquire on behalf of the people of London and I was sure there would be an inquiry into what had been the precise nature of the decision made and the regulations applied in that case. I at no point implied there should be a public inquiry, having no knowledge of the process that would make that even possible on our level.

I stress again that this lies within the federal area. An inquiry is being done. I will be glad to share with the member for London North any material that we are able to get as soon as it becomes available to us.

Mrs. Cunningham: My supplementary question is to the Premier. I listened carefully to the Solicitor General—

Mr. Speaker: I remind the member that if a response comes from a certain minister, the supplementary must flow out of the response. Therefore, you address your supplementary to the minister who responded.

1430

Mrs. Cunningham: My question then is to the Solicitor General. She mentioned in her response to the question that she was not certain

of a process that could take place whereby this House could be better and, more important, informed more quickly of the results of inquiries.

There is another process, and the process is this: the auditor is presently performing an audit of the IDEA Corp. It is the contention of our party that if he can perform an audit in that situation, then surely he can do the same for day passes when young people are at risk on the streets in our very own city of London. I think it is very important that we use the process that is most important to the citizens and to the parents.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a supplementary?

Mrs. Cunningham: Under section 17 of the Audit Act, any minister, including the Premier, can ask the auditor to perform an investigation. Will the Solicitor General now take action and ask the Provincial Auditor to conduct an audit into the manner in which day passes are awarded to psychiatric patients?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Indeed, at the meeting of the standing committee on public accounts today, the committee of this Legislature representing all three parties discussed this matter at length and made a contrary decision. Meanwhile, the hospital review is being properly conducted, as promised, and the results are expected on Monday and Tuesday.

I point out to the member that actually, as in every case like this, an inquiry by this Legislature should not include just one case but should look at the whole process. It is my understanding that, by and large, this process has been rather successful, and the whole process of dealing with these people has had many good results, not to minimize the tragedy that occurred in this event.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CENTRES

Mr. Ferraro: My question is for the Treasurer and Minister of Financial Institutions. It pertains to the recent federal initiative to designate Montreal and Vancouver as international banking centres and the nonsensical decision not to designate Toronto. The Treasurer will know that the designation provides income tax exemptions for profits that financial institutions make on loans and deposits involving non-Canadian residents.

My question pertains to the recent decision by Royal Trust to choose Vancouver as headquarters for its Canadian private bank operations. The vice-president said the fact that the international banking centres legislation was passed and that the province passed similar legislation was the prime reason for locating in Vancouver. More specifically, to the Treasurer, my question is for

a reaction from him. What are we doing to restore or even sustain Toronto's competitive position?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The Toronto financial community is not flagging or decreasing. If anything, it is growing very rapidly. The honourable member may have read in recent press accounts that a number of Japanese and New York firms will be locating here, hiring additional people and renting additional space in the near future.

There is no way that we can control the ill-advised action of the government of Canada, even though its own standing committee, chaired by Mr. Blenkarn, advised strongly against it. Certainly Royal Trust has every right to take advantage of that, particularly in the Vancouver situation. The private banking they refer to is sort of special banking for rich jet-setters, and they may feel that Vancouver, since it is well situated for some of the well-to-do, world-class fortunes in the Pacific Rim, might have some advantage there.

I regret the fact that they made that decision, but they made it, and I wish Vancouver well in this acquisition.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. The last time we asked the Minister of Labour about the role of his ministry in establishing health and safety committees at major construction sites in this province—and that was just a few weeks ago—there were only two, the domed stadium and the Scotia Plaza operation. Can the minister tell us what progress he has made on major construction sites in Ontario?

1430

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am glad to have that question from the member for Hamilton East. In fact, at the memorial service I mentioned just a few moments ago in this House, we were at the Scotia Plaza site. It just so happens that I had visited that site on my own about a week and a half ago and talked to some workers who happened to be working around the entrance of the site. I asked them how the health and safety committee had been going on that site and they reported to me that it was working very well. The reports I get from the dome site as well indicate that the procedure, by and large, has been working very effectively.

As far as extending the health and safety joint committee mechanism to other construction sites is concerned, under the act, construction sites are currently exempted, and the only way in which the ministry can require health and safety

committees project by project is through ministerial order.

I have not found it appropriate at this time to use ministerial discretion and a ministerial order to require those sorts of committees on other sites, but in our amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act we are considering the advisability of moving in that direction.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister has been short on really answering questions, but he may have touched the crux of this one in his final comments. The minister is aware that there is no legislation, as he has pointed out, to require mandatory committees on construction sites. They are not covered under the act, even though the workers, as the minister knows, have been arguing for them to be covered under the act for a good number of years.

I simply want to know from the minister, are we going to see legislation that covers the construction sites under the health and safety act, or do the contractors still have a veto within his government over this issue?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I will tell the member one thing. If the contractors ever had a veto in my ministry before I was around, they certainly do not have one now.

I just want to tell my friend that as we look at this issue, we are trying to come to grips with some of the realities of construction sites. When we take a site like the domed stadium or Scotia Plaza, which are really workplaces for a number of years, it is not really very difficult to superimpose upon that workplace a joint health and safety committee. Indeed, in one of those sites, there is a worker committee that works very effectively to feed information into the joint health and safety committee.

Our dilemma really is smaller construction projects, where there is a situation where one trade is there for a few days, then another trade is there and then another trade is there. In our work we are trying to develop models that will cope with the realities of the construction site, but nevertheless, utilize as effectively as we can the mechanism of joint health and safety committees.

HOUSING APPROVALS

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Yesterday the Minister of Housing made it clear that she is going to pass the problem of housing on to the municipalities, and we all know how important it is that there be a consultative, co-operative spirit between the province and the municipalities.

None the less, I have a letter here that was written by the mayor of North Bay to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) regarding certificates of approval for sanitary sewer and water supply systems. It has to do with the delay of six months that has taken place in having those approvals. "These delays," as he says "have seriously affected the timely development and marketing of two new subdivisions, a major condominium development and two much-needed nonprofit rental housing projects in the community."

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Cousens: He was talking here about unreasonable delays in receiving certificates of approval.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Cousens: Was the Minister of Housing aware of these delays of six months that were going on within another ministry?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Good question.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am very delighted to answer this question. Let me say that we know very well that the problem with delays is very important in terms of its effect on the price of housing. The longer it takes to get a project approved, the more expensive the land becomes; the longer it takes to build, the more expensive the house is for people who want to buy.

I recognize and we recognize in this government that some of the problems have come from the way we ourselves in our various ministries have worked through the approval process. That is why we have made a commitment to cut significantly the time that is currently spent by our own government in the whole approvals process. That is the message we gave to the mayors today.

We are going to do that on our side. We are asking them to do exactly the same thing on their side. There are two parts to the approvals process. Part of it is what we do in this government, and we are going to cut those times significantly; part of it is the time they spent, and we hope they will be committed to cut those times significantly.

Mr. Cousens: The minister is delighted to answer with an answer that does not give me any sense of hope that there is going to be any improvement in the Ministry of the Environment.

Mr. Speaker: Does it help you with your supplementary?

Mr. Cousens: It sure does, Mr. Speaker. If I had any confidence that they would clean up their

backyard and get on with the job, then the municipalities, I know, would be more co-operative.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Cousens: Would this minister take it upon herself to guarantee that the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) are not going to get in the way of progress? Can she guarantee that?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am very sorry not to be able to do much for the member opposite's sense of hope, but I think he might look to his own soul for that. I think what is important here is that this government—

Mr. Cousens: Mr. Speaker, I take offence at that. That is a stupid answer and we are talking about a very serious problem. I don't accept that. I want an apology.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The message I was trying—

Mr. Cousens: I want an apology first. Come on.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am sorry. I thought the member could take a joke.

It seems to me that this government has already indicated—and let me reiterate it for his benefit so it is as clear as I can make it—that it is committed to making sure people in this province get the housing they need as quickly as possible for as reasonable a price as possible. We know one of the things that will make that difference is the work that we as a government do, and there is a government-wide commitment to speed up the process of approvals that will make it possible for housing of all sorts to be built all over the province.

The government is committed to doing that and we will be talking with municipalities about their doing exactly the same thing. Both of those things, I think, will happen. I have a great deal of hope that they will happen.

CONTROL OF SMOKING

Mr. Callahan: My question is to the Minister of Labour. When I was chairing the standing committee on regulations and private bills, we had the city of Toronto come before us for special legislation in order to allow it to pass a bylaw that would control smoking in the workplace. Since then, my municipality, the city of Brampton, has passed a bylaw which controls smoking in municipal buildings and buildings other than the workplace.

I would like to ask the Minister of Labour if it is the intention of the ministry to bring in

comprehensive legislation that will deal with this issue, as opposed to requiring municipalities to come before that committee individually, paying the cost and going through the procedure in order to obtain that type of jurisdiction.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think there are good reasons why the member for Brampton South and I should not be discussing this. Notwithstanding that, I simply want to tell the member for Brampton South and you, Mr. Speaker, that the legislation under which the city of Toronto has been granted authority to regulate smoking in the private workplace was, in effect, special legislation, a pilot project to determine the extent and how it would work out in that context.

Any other municipality that determined it wanted to regulate smoking in the private workplace would, in fact, have to come for special legislation. Of course, within the Ministry of Labour we are considering a number of alternatives, including the alternative of expanding that power to all municipalities. Unfortunately, at this point, I cannot identify a specific direction to my friend the member for Brampton South.

Mr. Callahan: I must say I was under the impression that my own municipality had perhaps proceeded without the appropriate legislative jurisdiction. I checked with our solicitor and was satisfied to find out that the prohibition was simply for municipal buildings and for places other than workplaces.

1440

I am concerned that municipalities may decide to take it upon themselves to pass this type of bylaw or put out this prohibition because they have seen Toronto do it, not recognizing that there is special legislation required; so I would ask the minister certainly to consider that and perhaps to look at it with all due haste to avoid this possibly happening and litigation occurring, which may take considerable time.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That would be a lucky strike, and I am sure that the member for Brampton South would be a player in that regard.

I do not have the same concern as my friend the member for Brampton South has that municipalities would go beyond the authority they have. I think clearly the municipalities around the province understand the extent of their authority, and that is to regulate smoking in public places and, obviously, in municipal buildings.

But it clearly is an option we have, as we try to encourage a smoke-free Ontario, to grant other municipalities, and indeed all municipalities, the

authority through amendments to the appropriate act so that bylaws can be passed in some or all municipalities to regulate smoking in, as I say, the private workplace.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Miss Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. It concerns the report of the Ontario Task Force on the Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the Workers' Compensation Board. The minister will know the report by the task force was absolutely damning of the situation that exists at the board in terms of rehab services and stated quite clearly that the Workers' Compensation Board does not provide anywhere near adequate rehab services for injured workers in the province.

He will also know that the task force presented some 84 recommendations to his ministry on how the system should be cleaned up in order that the WCB provide adequate services to workers. I simply want to ask the minister, when can we expect some substantial legislation in this regard in order to guarantee rehab services to workers in the province?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member for Sudbury East raises a very good point. As we are proceeding with revisions to the Workers' Compensation Act, one of the thrusts, as my friends opposite will see, is towards ensuring return to the workplace as speedily as possible. Of course, one of the ways we are going to be doing that is an enhancement and a clearer definition of the rights and responsibilities as far as vocational rehabilitation services are concerned.

I would take some issue with her suggestions concerning the task force report. I should tell her that many of the recommendations contained in that task force report have already been implemented by the board. A number of others do not apply directly to the board. The task force work was done, obviously, quite some time ago and there has been very substantial progress made. Not all has been done which needs to be done and more will be done, but if she were to take a snapshot look today at what is going on in vocational rehabilitation, including her own community of Sudbury, I think she would be pleasantly surprised.

Miss Martel: I have reviewed the board's latest statement and the board's response to the task force report and I say, quite frankly, I was not impressed by anything the board stated. It was a lot of lofty platitudes about changes and commitments they have not made yet.

A big part of the problem, as the minister will know, is that the WCB commits only 3.3 per cent of its 1986 budget to vocational rehab services in this province. I cannot understand how it is going to make any significant changes with that type of budget for rehab services.

Given the fact that only a small number of workers in this province even receive rehab services, and given the fact that of that small number only a quarter receive any retraining whatsoever if they cannot return to their former employment, and that number has been decreasing over the last five years, what is the minister going to do to guarantee that the WCB provide total and adequate rehab services for injured workers in this province who desperately need it?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Given the nature of the political process, I am not sure there is anything that anyone could ever do to satisfy the member for Sudbury East. What I will tell her simply is that she is quoting old figures and she does not have reliable, up-to-date information.

Miss Martel: Those were the reports of the task force report.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: There is a suggestion from the member for Sudbury East, which she is shouting across the House, that every claimant should indeed have a program of vocational rehabilitation. It is important to point out that the vast majority of claimants at the WCB have no need for vocational rehabilitation. They, unfortunately, suffered an injury in the workplace. They have available to them medical rehabilitation. They recover from their injury, they are paid a temporary pension and then they return to their normal work and continue their lives. That is mostly the history of the vast majority of WCB claims.

Notwithstanding that, the point can be made, and I think it should be made, that there is a lot more to do on vocational rehabilitation. I just want to assure her that in that regard I think she and I are singing from the same hymn book.

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister of Labour. Earlier this week, I asked the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini) what he was going to do to ensure that the Metro disabled community was not left without transportation during the current labour upset. That minister offered nothing, only indicated that a lot of monitoring was going on with the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney); they were all monitoring the situation.

Since the minister for the disabled had nothing to offer the disabled citizens of Metro, could the Minister of Labour ensure that these people's very important means of transportation will not be cut off on Monday when the Wheel-Trans workers go on strike?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: In these sorts of matters where management and labour have come to what even I consider in the Wheel-Trans situation to be a temporary impasse, it is simply not possible to guarantee that the parties will come to an agreement or that there will not be a strike. There have been assurances given from the operators of the facilities for the disabled that essential services will continue to be provided.

The member asked what I can do. I have taken some very substantial steps, I think, including meeting yesterday with the union leadership to probe once again whether or not there is the possibility of a settlement. I have not given up hope. I think that with effective and appropriate mediation services from our ministry, from the Ministry of Labour, there is a settlement possible, but I do not want to put out a false hope. Those are very difficult negotiations. I am encouraging the parties to get together. I think that is my responsibility and I remain somewhat hopeful.

Mrs. Marland: This minister was very quick to commit his full attention to the ongoing labour negotiations with construction workers, and that I assume was in order to avoid a strike, obviously, during the world economic summit, yet the disabled do not seem to get the same priority from his office.

Since it now seems to be common practice to use the government limousines to chauffeur ministers and families to baseball games, I would like to ask the minister if he would commit those government limos to help the disabled to get to work next week while the Wheel-Trans workers go on strike, and is he really willing to step in and resolve this problem as he seemed to be for the construction workers?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think what we have there is a very good example of some of the difficulties questioners have when their supplementary questions are written before they hear the response to the main question.

The member suggested that somehow, as Minister of Labour, I was showing more interest and more concern about contract negotiations going on with the construction industry. I want to tell my friend I have taken the same steps in respect of Wheel-Trans as I did in the construction industry, that is, meeting with the parties and

encouraging them under very difficult circumstances to continue the collective bargaining process and to work towards a settlement.

She must understand that there are some 8,000 or 9,000 collective agreements in this province and most of them get resolved without any interference at all or mediation assistance from the ministry. Where we have a situation, as in the construction industry or as in Wheel-Trans, we do our best to help the parties reach a settlement. That is what we are doing in the construction industry and that is what we are doing with the Wheel-Trans situation.

1450

MANUFACTURING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Treasurer about one of the few tax breaks that were provided in the recent budget. Of course, I am talking about a tax break to the corporate sector in the form of the manufacturing investment incentive, by which the Treasurer is allowing Ontario firms to deduct 115 per cent of the cost of equipment and machinery for manufacturing.

I would like to ask the Treasurer why he is encouraging the purchase of machinery and equipment, which he knows is an area where we have a tremendous deficit in our economy, and why he is not instead taking action to develop a machinery and equipment industry out of our own capability here in the province of Ontario? Why are we providing a tax break that is going to encourage the spending of money outside of the province instead of developing our own Canadian industry?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member will be aware that the tax reform initiatives introduced by the government of Canada changed the corporate income tax base and we have paralleled that in almost every respect, including the change in the capital cost allowance program, which was changed by the government of Canada.

As I said in the House on two occasions in referring to the tax reform, we are afraid that those federal changes are going to reduce our competitive stance with regard to northern states—Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York—and this particular initiative the honourable member refers to is designed to replace that competitive position. When firms, whether they are Canadian or international, are looking for places to expand—believe me, much of the world capital is concentrating on this sort of manufac-

turing and industrial expansion—we want them to be able to consider Ontario favourably, and this particular program, along with an improvement in research and development payments, is designed to do that.

Mr. Morin-Strom: The Treasurer knows well that the changes in the capital cost allowance formulas in fact only paralleled the changes that occurred in the United States, so the relative tax position of our manufacturing sector has not changed in comparison with that of the manufacturing sector in the United States.

However, the Premier's Council report, which came out just before the Treasurer's budget, states right in the beginning of the report that we must direct our emphasis away from "such basic commodities as newsprint or sheet steel, and move toward a range of 'smarter,' more specialized products—products whose value resides in the skill and ingenuity of the people who develop and manufacture them."

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Morin-Strom: Certainly, instead of the exporting of raw materials and commodity goods, we should be producing here in Ontario the machinery and equipment we need for our manufacturing industry.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Morin-Strom: Will the Treasurer change his plans and see that the incentives are made greater, if necessary, but apply only to purchases which occur here—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Morin-Strom: —in Ontario or here in Canada?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I can assure the honourable member and the other members of the House that this program is designed to increase the availability of jobs and to improve our competitive stance. It falls directly in line with the recommendations from the Premier's Council, which are designed to open up that competitive position that Ontario has so successfully utilized in the past.

There are certain basic weaknesses in our competitive position associated with our productivity, and in order to improve that, we have to encourage the kinds of investment that are associated with this program. We hope and expect that much of the new machinery will be purchased and manufactured in this jurisdiction, but we are not so shortsighted as to think that everything they may need is manufactured and developed here. We want to encourage it and we believe it is in the best interests of the province.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Wiseman: I have a petition here from Renfrew to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly, and it says:

"We, the undersigned, urge the Ontario Legislature not to pass legislation that would pass responsibility for regulating Sunday and holiday retail store hours to municipalities or the regional governments in Ontario. Rather, the Ontario government should revise its current legislation in order to uphold more strongly a common pause day across the province. We believe that a common day for family and worship activities is essential to the wellbeing of Ontario."

It is signed by some 100 residents of Lanark and Renfrew.

Mr. Ferraro: I have a petition signed by 43 constituents of mine in Guelph to the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, urge the Ontario Legislature not to pass legislation that would pass responsibility for regulating Sunday and holiday retail hours to the municipalities in Ontario.

"Rather, the Ontario government should revise its current legislation in order to uphold more strongly a common pause day across the province. We believe that a common day for family and worship activities is essential to the wellbeing of Ontario."

MUNICIPAL ZONING BYLAWS

Mr. Jackson: I am very pleased the Premier (Mr. Peterson) is in the House for this petition. It reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of the province of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas during the 1987 election campaign all three political parties expressed their disfavoured of municipal bylaws which have the effect of limiting the number of unrelated persons who can legally occupy the same dwelling;

"We therefore call upon the government to act on the petitions of 370 students from McMaster University in Hamilton who have written to the Premier and whose petition reads, in part:

"I...strongly urge you to keep your promise to support Bill 94 or implement government legislation that will eliminate discriminatory and exclusionary housing bylaws."

That is signed by 370 students at McMaster University.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Offer: I have a petition from the Meadowvale West Church Campus, addressed to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned members of the above congregation, petition the Lieutenant Governor and the Premier of Ontario against the proposed legislation allowing Sunday shopping in the province of Ontario."

It is signed by a number of members.

INSTITUTIONAL CARE WORKERS

Mr. McLean: I have a petition signed by 91 people, addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, indicating the discontent of institutional care workers with an inadequate wage offer:

"Whereas these workers—represented by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU)—find this offer to be ridiculous when they are told the government is considering an increase of 2.07 per cent in the pension indexing;

"Whereas the annual cost-of-living increases are at a four per cent to five per cent level and the government has increased the retail sales tax rate by one percentage point;

"Whereas an offer of four per cent is inadequate to meet with the annual percentage increase of over eight per cent;

"We, the undersigned, believe a more substantial wage offer must be presented in order to close the gap between labour and management during ongoing wage negotiations."

MOTIONS

COMMITTEE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the select committee on constitutional reform be authorized to meet on the morning of and following routine proceedings on Wednesday, May 4, 1988.

Motion agreed to.

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the requirement for notice of committee hearings be suspended for the consideration of bills Pr24, Pr25, Pr30, Pr34, Pr38 and Pr49 by the standing committee on regulations and private bills on Wednesday, May 4, 1988.

Motion agreed to.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Hon. Mr. Conway: I might just tell members that I am tabling answers to questions 98 and 100 that have been placed in Orders and Notices [see Hansard for Monday, May 2].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 115, An Act to provide for Construction Work in connection with the Toronto Economic Summit.

BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Harris: I am going to try a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, at six of the clock, the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) adjourned the debate on behalf of our party. At that point, he was doing so under the understanding that somebody on behalf of our party, because it was our turn, should move a routine adjournment. He did not at that point start his remarks and I think the Hansard will show that he did not in any way start into the debate.

I am not 100 per cent sure of the technicalities of that, but I hope that when the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry comes today or next week, in view of the fact he thought he was doing what he was supposed to do on behalf of our party, that would not count as his turn for speaking. Maybe the government House leader could proffer an opinion on that. If we could have some concurrence that is the understanding, it would be very helpful.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I just want to take the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to review the point the member for Nipissing has made because he is quite right in remembering that yesterday afternoon when the debate concluded, it was in the normal course of events left to the speaker who was going to begin today to move the adjournment of the debate. Our good friend the member from Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry and East Grenville was kind enough to do that. In fact, as he moved the adjournment, a number of very interesting comments were being batted back and

forth between the member and the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon). I certainly want to provide the member with every opportunity to continue his remarks and I see the member for Nipissing is nodding approval.

Mr. Speaker: On that point of order, I believe that is correct. The member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry adjourned debate. I think there have been other occasions in this House in the past when that has taken place, and I am quite sure the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry will have more to say. However, we can go on and recognize any other member who wishes to speak.

Mrs. Marland: I rise today, April 28, 1988, to take part in the budget debate. I contemplated whether to make some new notes and perhaps deliver a somewhat new speech or whether just to pull out my previous three responses to the Liberal government budgets in the three years I have been here. Many of the items I addressed originally are still unaddressed by this government.

Today, however, I will start by discussing education. I think at the outset I should also explain that I was afforded by the Ministry of Education a very discourteous piece of treatment. When the announcements for funding in my region were made the day before yesterday, a press conference was held in the Peel Board of Education headquarters offices. Apparently, six members of the provincial parliament who represent the region of Peel and any numbers of members of the media were invited to this press conference. However, as the seventh member of the provincial parliament for the region of Peel, I was not invited and I felt that was very much intentional. The media certainly recognized that my absence was very obvious. They also felt that my not being invited was intentional.

I think it is unfortunate because the six members who were present do not represent the people who live in my riding. In fact, I had spent a great deal of time, which I was more than happy to do, to represent the interests of the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board and the Peel Board of Education in attempting to procure a meeting for the members of those boards and the administration for those boards with the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward). That, I may add, was done prior to the majority of those members of the provincial parliament even being in this Legislature, prior to last September 1987.

Having acknowledged that the Minister of Education's office or the minister himself did not

see fit to invite me to the announcements about what exactly was going to go on in school funding in Peel, I would now like to tell the members that after learning from the media that the press conference had taken place and the announcements had been made, I now understand why they perhaps were not terribly proud of those announcements.

School funding in Peel is in a totally irresponsible situation by this Liberal government. The announcement of capital grants to the school boards was nothing more than what the education director, John Fraser, correctly labelled as a media circus. I am extremely disappointed with the Minister of Education for not inviting any members of the opposition parties to the press conferences that were held across the province on Tuesday.

I should mention, because I think it would be interesting to those present in the House, that there were, however, a number of members of opposition parties who were invited to some of these media announcements by the local Liberal government members. It seems that the local Liberal government members in my region did not wish to extend that courtesy to me. Some of our members were lucky enough to have Liberals in the neighbouring ridings inform them of the press events. As I have already said, I was not so fortunate.

It is interesting to note that the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board requested \$126 million this year. They received \$80 million. On the surface that sounds wonderful, but although they were asking for \$126 million this year, they in fact received \$31 million this year. They requested 16 projects and they got eight.

We need, now, a new Lakeshore Secondary School, which happens to be in my riding, but because of the funding it will have to be phased in over three years. In 1988, we receive no money for the new Lakeshore Secondary School. In 1989, we receive no money for that school. In 1990, we finally do receive \$9 million, and in 1991, we receive another \$4 million, so in fact in 1990 and 1991, we get \$13 million. However, we need \$20 million for that one school. This means that the boards will have to borrow money at great cost because they cannot wait for the money to flow over the three-year period.

Almost half of the 53,000 students are in temporary accommodation; 14,000 are in portables. There are currently about 150,000 students in portables in Ontario. In the Dufferin-Peel separate school board alone we are busing

children from Orangeville to Brampton. The public board requested \$50 million; it was allocated the measly sum of \$15 million. I think it is pretty serious when the largest public school board in Canada requests \$50 million and receives \$15 million.

1510

The average construction cost of a new elementary school runs between \$2 million and \$5 million and secondary schools cost between \$10 million and \$15 million. In fact, the Peel Board of Education had 14 priorities on its list and received money to build only three of those. In order to be—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. As the member who has the floor so well indicated, there are problems with trying to understand on all sides of the House. The Speaker recognizes the member for Mississauga South and only the member for Mississauga South.

Mrs. Marland: When the Peel Board of Education has 14 priorities and received funding for only three, that tells you how great the underfunding has been. I should emphasize that, to be listed as a priority, those children have to be there. It is not a matter of planning for the future. It is not planning for the future population moving into a community. It is dealing with the children who are living in that community today.

This year's funding for public schools was the smallest the Peel board had received in three years. It actually has problems with the child care space program. The fact is that the Peel board made a submission to the Treasurer on March 21, 1988, wherein it said: "The provision of child care spaces on all new schools is another government initiative compounding our problem. The \$250,000 addition required on each new junior school will only serve some 25 students, a mere fraction of the potential demand. In fact, this entire issue has more questions than answers at the moment."

The school board is also very concerned about the impact of the grades 1 and 2 class-size reduction. The school board has said to us that it would like to have the allocations for the projects it has identified as emergency needs. They recognize that, provincially, there are other boards of education where class sizes perhaps do not compare with the Peel board's. The Peel board's class-size average today is 25.2. In fact, the reduction of class size to 20 in grades 1 and 2 is not the priority of the Peel Board of Education at the moment.

While we are talking about that reduction of class size, I may add that I have been told by educators around this province that there is no substantial evidence to support that children learn better in a class of 20 than they do in a class of 30. There is no argument that children learn better in a small class, which is 10, 12 or 15; but the difference between 20 and 30 is not so appreciable that, in fact, there is academic evidence supporting the value of it.

Frankly, I think it is very interesting that the government members were willing to make a campaign promise on some fleeting white horse as they galloped around the province last August, and then they plucked out of the air the idea, "Well, we will reduce class size," before, in fact, they found out what the average class size already is in the largest public school board in the province, namely, the Peel Board of Education.

If this were a perfect world and if we did have a money tree in Queen's Park, then of course why not reduce class size? Why not reduce all class sizes, not only grades 1 and 2? But what we are doing here is trying to fulfil a campaign promise that simply is not affordable. I think if this government were to decide what was fair and equitable and affordable by the taxpayers of this province, it would not have the reduction of class size as a high priority while it is gouging the people's wallets in their hip pockets.

In the post-secondary situation, the operating grants have been increased by only 4.5 per cent this year. This means that 10 per cent of all qualified applicants to Ontario universities will not find a place this fall. Last year five per cent were turned away, so this year we are 100 per cent worse off with our post-secondary educational institutions.

I noticed with concern that in transportation we have no mention of the Eglinton or Sheppard subway lines. Mr. Speaker, you would only have to live in a community like Mississauga, which happens to be a city of 400,000 people—it is also the ninth-largest city—to recognize that the solution to transportation does not depend on pouring more people into more cars on the already congested highways. Our roadway system is simply inadequate for the number of people within our community who are trying to commute.

In the three years that I have been commuting to Queen's Park, I have gone from needing half an hour to get downtown to an hour now, and that is at any time of the day; it is no longer a matter of whether you travel in the rush hour or outside of the rush hour.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member for Mississauga South.

Mrs. Marland: It is very interesting that the interjections are coming from one of the representatives of Mississauga. I would really like to take note of the fact that I would have thought the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney) and the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer) would have shared with me my concern about the traffic problems in Mississauga, especially for those people who have to commute eastbound to Toronto. Instead, they are playing the partisan role of interrupting my speech. However, with your assistance, Mr. Speaker, I will continue.

The point is that we need those subway lines. We need the Sheppard line in Metro Toronto, and we need the Eglinton line for Mississauga, Etobicoke and Brampton. There is no question that the solution to the traffic congestion is to get people out of their cars, but we have to give them an alternative. The alternative, of course, is a subway extension.

1520

I also notice that under transportation in this budget, there are no funds committed to expansion of the Queen Elizabeth Way or Highway 401 for commuters travelling in and out of Toronto. If we do not soon make a commitment for planning the expansion, there will be no land on which to place any expansion to those existing systems.

There was an announcement of tendering the freeway traffic management system on the Queen Elizabeth Way from Cawthra Road to Highway 427, which is a distance of 4.5 kilometres. I understand that this system "informs drivers of traffic congestion on this high-volume freeway." I do not know how much money that system is going to cost, but I can tell them in advance it is a mess. As I speak, later tonight or early tomorrow—surprise—maybe I am going to give a news release.

With no commitment for better public transit and no plans to accommodate cars, we have a serious transportation crisis in Mississauga. Mississauga is a growing business community, and transportation links to other major centres are crucial. It is no longer simply a question of those commuters trying to get into Toronto; it has now become an east-west problem.

Some spending to allow further progress on the Highway 403 extension from Mississauga to the Queen Elizabeth Way will be going ahead.

At one time you could avoid this terrible congestion by getting on the highway before 7:30

in the morning. I now find that you have to be on the highway before 6:45 or forget it, and that continues all day, until after 7 p.m.

I would like now to address the subject of sound barriers. During the last election, the ministry promised funds for additional sound barriers on the Queen Elizabeth Way in Mississauga. It is particularly significant that when we were in about the last week of the campaign, towards the end of August or the beginning of September, suddenly, lo and behold, out came this marvellous press release from the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton). In fact, the minister's news release was dated August 31.

It said that plans were to proceed immediately to the planning and design phase for these locations within my riding on the south side of the Queen Elizabeth Way. Those locations I will identify as being between Southdown Road and Mississauga Road on the south side and Highway 10 west to Mississauga Road, also on the south side.

This news release was somewhat misleading. It was indicating that construction work on these barriers would begin soon. However, it appears that the additional \$2 million for sound barriers simply puts the Mississauga projects higher up on the priority list.

In fact, I have dealt with the subject of the sound barriers through the process of questions in Orders and Notices. In answer to one of my Orders and Notices questions about the timing of the sound barrier on the south side of the Queen Elizabeth Way from Erin Mills Parkway to Hurontario Street—actually, on the south side of the highway it is called Southdown Road at that point—it says:

"Ministry staff are at present carrying out design and other precontract engineering activities.... The additional funds allowed more projects to be brought forward from the long list of candidate sites already evaluated and prioritized on the ministry's multi-year construction program. The two QEW sites referred to above were among the relatively high priorities on the candidate list and the additional funds accordingly accelerated their programming and precontract engineering work. Hence, there was no specific instruction issued with regard to these projects and the regional staff initiated engineering work as soon as these sites were placed on the three-year noise-barrier program."

It is tremendously significant to read in an answer in Orders and Notices, which I guess was the beginning of January—unfortunately, this copy is not dated, but the order paper question

was placed December 30, 1987, and we will assume that the answer came back during January—that “the two QEW sites referred to above were among the relatively high priorities on the candidate list.” Is that not beautiful?

The minister announced at the end of August in a press release during the campaign that they would be built. The press release in August 1987 did not say that they were relatively high priorities or that they were on a candidate list. The minister said they would be built. I leave it to you, Mr. Speaker, to draw your own conclusions about the honesty of the press release. I am not challenging the honesty of a minister in this House, but I am challenging the honesty of a press release from the minister's office dated August 31, 1987.

Just to speak for a few moments about the business reaction to this “biggest-tax-grab-in-Ontario-history budget,” in the business community in the area I represent, and many other sectors with whom I have had discussion in this past week, it is generally felt that this budget, although it was announced to be designed to eliminate the deficit, or our debt, whichever word you want to use, in fact does not go far enough and is not going to achieve that.

Elimination of the corporate tax break for new business will hurt. Obviously, new businesses need all the help they can get, and obviously, the retail sales tax increase will have a negative effect on consumer spending habits. You end up with a cycle of businesses not being successful and productivity being down because goods are not being sold because nobody can afford to buy them. It is indeed an inflationary budget, and there is no question that Ontario will lose its current credit rating.

When we talk about survival needs, we have to talk about health care. The Ontario Hospital Association says that provincial underfunding is the main reason behind hospital deficits. I noticed last night in one of the media interviews that the president of the Ontario Hospital Association was asked what he expected hospitals were going to do about the fact that because of their underfunding they are now faced with bigger deficits than ever, because apparently the Treasurer simply says to the hospitals around this province: “You manage your books. You do your bookkeeping. You make sure that you don't budget where you end up having a deficit. It's up to you to do that”—very simple, offhand direction to the hospitals in this province that are the only institutions on which we would ultimately depend for our lives, I venture to say.

It is not being overly dramatic to challenge the Treasurer, or indeed any member of this Liberal government who supports the drastic moves made in this budget, or the lack of moves, by saying that if they are ill and they need hospital treatment or they need an operating-room procedure immediately, where would their priorities be? Of course, it is very simple to know that the priorities are indeed for those hospitals to perform the services and render the procedures that are needed.

1530

I was very proud to hear the president of the Ontario Hospital Association saying quite simply, in reply to this question about what they are going to do, “We are going to continue to provide the best health care that we can, as hospital institutions around this province, and if we have a deficit, then that is going to have to be part of the operation.” They are simply not in a position where they are going to say, irresponsibly, as the Treasurer suggested, that they just cut back until they have affordable service and affordable programs, no matter whether it serves the needs in terms of health for their patients. When we are talking about hospitals, we are not talking about minor health needs, I respectfully suggest.

The provincial government has announced that it will not be funding hospital deficits this year, which makes you wonder about what its announcement will be next year. With its tremendous increase in revenue from the sales tax increase and the increased taxation in the other areas, perhaps next year we may hope that it will come to its senses and decide, yes, it will help fund the hospital deficits.

In 1987-88, the Ontario Hospital Association asked for an inflationary increase in operating grants of 5.1 per cent, yet it received only 4.4 per cent. For this coming year, the Treasurer estimates inflation will run at 4.7 per cent, yet hospitals receive only 4.4 per cent. This gap in funding will result in the creation of higher deficits than already exist. It is estimated that by next year, about 80 per cent Ontario's hospitals will run deficits. At this time, in fact, the hospitals are refusing to reveal exactly what their deficits are.

There is something terribly wrong if 80 per cent of Ontario's hospitals are running deficits. Are we saying that 80 per cent of the hospital boards around this province are irresponsible? I served on the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital board for a number of years, and I know how difficult it is for these hospital boards to operate within the financial restrictions they are

now placed under. They are trying to be responsible for the service of health care to those people who need it.

Today, the Treasurer presented the Ontario taxpayer with the bill for the September election of the Liberal majority government. When I say "today," of course I mean the day that he gave us this wonderful budget. The tab turned out to be \$1.3 billion in new tax increases, or about \$13.4 million for every Liberal in this House.

The government has continued its tax-tax-tax, spend-spend-spend approach to fiscal management with a vengeance. To the taxpayer, it made little difference if the Treasurer read his budget in the House or at the corner of King and Bay. The pain is the same, and their pockets will be a lot lighter as a result of the Peterson government's "Elect us now; pay us later" style. The Liberal government, which managed to get through an entire election campaign without once mentioning the term "tax increase," has raised nearly every one of its major taxes, without so much as batting an eye.

Taken together, the increases to the personal income tax, the retail sales tax, the gasoline tax, the alcohol levies, the tobacco tax and the changes to the corporate tax represent the single largest tax grab in Ontario history.

With the budget, the Treasurer has said, "Thanks a billion," to the taxpayers who voted his party into power in September. I emphasize that "Thanks a billion" is spelled with a "b." The notable budget lowlights include the fact that even without his tax increases, the Treasurer's revenues would have increased by 8.2 per cent, or \$2.8 billion over last year.

Last year, for the third consecutive year, the government overspent its budget plan. Government spending in 1988-89 will increase by 8.6 per cent, a rate more than double the current rate of inflation. The Treasurer justified his tax increases by saying the money was needed for more schools, more roads, more hospitals, more capital for universities. However, the capital spending increase for 1988-89 is about \$120 million, after deducting for projected in-year savings, only 12.6 per cent of the new tax grab.

The government has taken credit for \$350 million in in-year savings last year, which simply means that if the government had been more efficient, it would have spent even more than it has. In the current fiscal year, the government had credited \$500 million in in-year savings and constraints to its expenditure account, meaning that the \$473-million deficit is really a \$973-million deficit.

Before closing, I just want to comment on the environment. The environmental protection measures were also, unfortunately, just another tax grab. The Liberal budget's three-cent gas tax increase on leaded gasoline is a pure and simple tax grab. The Treasurer had erroneously labelled his three-cent increase in taxes on leaded gasoline as a measure which reinforces the government's commitment to the environment. This is far from a positive environmental action. What it does is send out the misleading message that we have to pay through the nose for environmental cleanup. If applied in a revenue-neutral manner, where the price advantage of leaded gasoline is eliminated by splitting the change in taxes between the two grades of leaded and unleaded gas, this then could have been viewed as a more positive measure.

Instead, the Liberals are increasing the tax burden on low-income families. Studies have shown that these families drive older cars, which need leaded gasoline. It has also been shown that they usually drive farther to work, because they cannot afford to live in the urban centres. These families will therefore be using a larger part of their affordable and available income to fuel their cars instead of feeding their children. These gas tax measures show no concern for the environment. All they show is that this Liberal government is turning into a road hazard.

There is no guarantee that the three-cent levy on leaded gas will equalize the prices of leaded and unleaded gas. Gas stations throughout the province have increased the price of leaded gas but have not equalized prices. There is still anywhere from a 0.1-cent to a full-cent difference. Although this is a relatively small differential between the two grades, it still leaves both an economic and a psychological incentive for drivers of cars using unleaded fuel to misfuel with the cheaper leaded gasoline.

Other environmental announcements in the budget were virtually nonexistent, and I have to say that, as the critic for the Environment for the Progressive Conservative caucus, that gave me very grave concern. There was mention of the government's ongoing programs to improve water quality through the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement, LifeLines and funding for beach cleanups. However, nothing new was announced, and no money.

The overall budget of the ministry was increased by \$58 million, to \$426 million. This is actually a reduction in the Ministry of the Environment's share of the total provincial

budget from 1.2 per cent, which it had been for the last three years, to 1.1 per cent.

I would finish by telling members that the reactions of Pollution Probe have been quite significant. Colin Isaacs of Pollution Probe commented that this budget had very little impact on the environment. He was happy that at least the environment was mentioned. He was not happy, however, with the manner in which the three-cent levy on leaded gasoline was presented.

The fact is that this government campaigned with a lot of promises in very many areas, not the least of which is the environment. Unfortunately, some of the areas they campaigned on they have not responded to at all, and I guess the most critical area that they did not campaign on was reducing the money we would have in our pockets after May 2, 1988. They did not campaign honestly, because they did not say, "In order to fulfil our campaign promises we will have to increase taxation as it has never been increased before in the province of Ontario."

For that reason, I find this budget totally unacceptable and I find it unfair. The budget itself is dishonest because of the fact that it does not address the needs of the people of this province.

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Mr. Ballinger: Shame.

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Speaker, you will note that I am not addressing anything but the budget itself as being dishonest. I think a government that produces a budget with the amount of staff this government has—and I did not mention that, but I will. The fact is that this government in two years increased the staff by 5,000 people. This budget adds another 3,000. That means that the civil service in Ontario goes from 80,000 to 88,000 people in three years.

Building a bureaucracy and taxing the people to pay for it and then not giving them the much-needed programs—as basic as health care, the funding of hospitals and the funding of education for children—when that does not happen, then this is not an honest budget. It is a budget that says, "We are going to take your money, but we are not going to fulfil the promises that we made." If they were being honest, they would know that so many of the promises they made simply are not affordable for the very fact that they cannot fund the basic needs of education and hospital and health care.

It is with regret that we heard this budget presented as it was last week, and it is with even greater regret, on behalf of the people in

Mississauga South who share the same kinds of needs as many of the other people around this province, that I have to say in a time of economic growth such as this province has never known that the people of Ontario are so badly hurt in their own financial situation because of the mismanagement financially by the Ontario Liberal government.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mahoney: I am a little bit concerned about some of the statements made by the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland). Perhaps she would have an opportunity to clarify them.

First of all, she refers to the budget as being dishonest. I have always found the member to be honest in her allegations and her suggestions, but she has talked about the \$80 million that the separate school board received as being only \$31 million. I would suggest that is terribly misleading and unfair to all the taxpayers in the region of Peel.

The member knows full well that the October documents I submitted to the Ministry of Education are funded on the basis of allocation and that the money does not come out in one cheque. She knows full well that in fact the money is advanced in the same way construction draws are advanced on a construction site.

She also knows full well that the high schools in the \$80 million total four high schools—three new ones and one major addition in Brampton—and she knows that will alleviate the very serious problem that school board has been facing, with an increase in enrolment in excess of 2,000 students in the secondary section of the separate school board in Peel in one year alone; while the public school, I would point out, went down by 300 students in that same period of time.

Should this government ignore the facts, ignore the realities, and simply write a cheque to the public school board, when in fact the secondary school enrolment went down by 300 pupils while the separate school board went up by 2,000-plus?

I would ask the member if she would address those comments and at the same time recognize that we have given \$381 million to education this year versus \$80 million in total by her government the last time it was on this side of the House.

Mr. Offer: I had a couple of notes on education, but my colleague the member for Mississauga West has very eloquently brought out the situation that has transpired in the Peel region since 1985.

It is absolutely incredible that the member for Mississauga South— She might wish to comment on the increase in education allocation in the Peel region which has transpired since 1985, from being flatlined at under \$80 million to now over \$300 million. The schoolchildren in the Peel region now see the end of the tunnel; now they see that there will be schools built, that the Treasurer and this government have attached priorities to education in the Peel region, and not only the Peel region but indeed throughout Ontario, particularly the growth areas. We are fortunate we have a Minister of Education, a Treasurer, a Premier (Mr. Peterson) and indeed this government and cabinet, which is able to finally address the very important needs in the Peel region and, in particular, the city of Mississauga.

I would also like the member for Mississauga South to address how we in the Peel region are being so hard done by when we have received unqualified amounts of money with respect to transportation, health care and social services, never before received in the Peel region to help maintain a quality of life which is so necessary and deserving in the Peel region. I am very happy to listen to how the member for Mississauga South will be able to address the priorities attached by this government.

Mr. Black: I was shocked and surprised to hear the member for Mississauga South make the comment that there was no evidence to support the belief that smaller class sizes lead to better learning environments for children. With all due respect, I would suggest to her that there is ample evidence to prove now that smaller class sizes have a positive impact on both the intellectual development and the social development of young children. That is particularly true in the early years of learning.

I would suggest, with all due respect, that the member for Mississauga South might well want to ask her research staff in the Progressive Conservative Party to investigate that for her. If they have time from making anonymous phone calls, they might have the opportunity.

An hon. member: And checking garbage pails.

Mr. Black: They might check in garbage pails and whatever other activities keep them busy. If they are unable to find the proper documentation, I will be happy to find some for her and provide proof of that fact.

I was also disappointed in the member's comments regarding capital funding. I think she knows very well that the improvement in capital

funding provided by this Ministry of Education and this government is a significant one after many years of Tory underfunding in this province. As a friend of education, I am surprised the member for Mississauga South did not acknowledge that fact.

Mr. Polsinelli: I was also surprised listening to the member for Mississauga South's statement. As her party's critic for the environment, she was actually saying she is unhappy that this government is trying to dissuade motorists from using leaded fuel. We do not expect this three-cents-a-litre increase in leaded gas to be a money-making proposition, but if it is a money-making proposition, then the \$39 million or so we may collect will go towards environmental purposes. That is clearly set out in the budget. It can only help.

With the whole issue of road taxes, the whole issue of gasoline taxes, I am sure the member for Mississauga South knows that this government spends in excess of \$2 billion towards our roads and transportation system and collects less than \$1 billion from our road taxes and gasoline taxes. If that is not the type of issue or the type of service the user should pay for, then perhaps the member should tell us who should pay for it.

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One more issue: Everybody in that opposition party seems to be calling this the largest tax grab in history. I do not quite understand that either, because if they are calling it the largest tax grab in history, let us look also at their federal counterparts, the third party's cousins in Ottawa.

Is the member for Mississauga South aware that the federal Minister of Finance, Michael Wilson, has taken more taxes from Ontario since they have taken office than this budget does? If they are going to talk about tax grabs, they should point to their friends in Ottawa too, because first they take the money and then they call it tax reform.

Mr. Harris: I want to congratulate the member for Mississauga South on representing the people of Mississauga, of Peel region. It is good to know there is one member there who really cares about those constituents in Mississauga, and I want to congratulate her.

Mrs. Marland: It must be singularly significant that five members of the Liberal caucus could not stomach what I said, because obviously the truth hurts. Is it not interesting?

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Marland: I would be surprised if the member for Mississauga West would talk about money for the Peel Board of Education. I would like to see the members from Mississauga go to the people on the Peel board and ask them if they are happy with \$15 million instead of \$50 million. I would like them to talk about transfer grants which, when this government took over, were 50 per cent funded. Now in Peel they are down to 28 per cent. They may not know this, but in Peel it is only 28 per cent of educational funding that comes from the province.

The member asked me where the dishonesty is in this budget and I will tell him. As far as how much money for how many high schools is concerned, there was the big announcement of \$80 million for funding for the Dufferin-Peel board when, in fact, it is \$31 million in 1988. We will have the same big tax grab, I am sure, next year.

When the member for Mississauga North asked me if I would like to comment on the funding, yes, I would. I would like to ask him if he is happy with children in one board in 500 portables and another board in Peel with 400 portables? When he says they can see the light at the end of the tunnel, what he really means is that they can see the light at the end of the tunnel that connects those portables between the yard and the school building.

As far as what I think about smaller class size is concerned, I say to the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) that if the question is purely what we can afford—which if it was an honest budget is what we would be saying—ask the homeless, ask the people on the waiting lists for hospitals what they think about the reduction of class size.

I really think it is very significant that all of them comment with their blinkers on.

Mr. Furlong: It is indeed a privilege to stand today, as the first elected member for the new riding of Durham Centre, to participate in this budget debate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Durham Centre for allowing me to represent them in this Legislature. I pledge to represent them to the very best of my ability and I will always be guided by their concerns.

The new riding of Durham Centre was carved out of the former ridings of Durham East, Durham West and Oshawa. The riding comprises the town of Whitby and one third of the city of Oshawa. It is a very inviting riding. It is, I believe, the only riding in this province that can boast that it has a constituency office for each of

the three parties represented in this House. Both the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) and the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) can vouch for the hospitality of my riding. The riding is so popular that some of my constituents receive householders from all three parties—our own brand of comparison shopping, I suppose.

The region of Durham, which lies to the east of Metropolitan Toronto, is one of the fastest growing areas of the province. This hypergrowth has created skyrocketing demands on all levels of government, not only in operating costs but also in the need for capital expenditures. Our resources are spread to the limit. Our school boards have had to cope with overcrowding; the number of portables emerging on our sites over the past five years has been embarrassing. Our hospitals have been bursting at the seams. Vacancy rates for housing stand at 0.15 per cent. Transportation services to and from the region have not kept pace. It is an all-too-familiar story across this province.

Since our government took office in 1985, many of these problems have been addressed. Capital spending on elementary and secondary education has quadrupled the 1984 expenditure levels. Funding of \$381 million in the first year of a three-year, \$900-million announcement not only addresses the most urgent need for additional pupil placements, it allows for a more comprehensive long-range planning process by the local boards.

Nous respectons aussi notre engagement de réduire le nombre d'élèves dans les classes de première et de deuxième année ainsi que de pourvoir à l'acquisition de livres et d'autre matériel d'apprentissage. Nous tenons aussi notre promesse d'accroître le nombre d'ordinateurs et d'améliorer l'enseignement de l'informatique.

Support for affordable housing will exceed \$1.4 billion in this budget year, an increase of 77 per cent over the 1984 levels. Perhaps the member for Mississauga South should stay and hear these statistics.

Mrs. Marland: I am going to hear you on the television.

Mr. Furlong: The budget measures providing help to first-time home buyers to save for a down payment is most welcome. The Ontario home ownership savings plan is a sound program for delivering tax support where it is needed most. Tax support is geared to income, and that is fair. Upgrading and the development of our transportation network continue to be a high priority for

this government. They have been allocated an additional \$100 million in this budget year.

Mrs. Marland: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I wish to advise the member for Durham Centre that I am leaving this chamber for personal reasons and I will enjoy his speech on the monitor.

The Deputy Speaker: That is not a point of order; that is a point of information.

An hon. member: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

The Deputy Speaker: The member is not in his seat. He cannot make a point of order.

Mr. Epp: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: When the member left there were no Conservatives left in the chamber.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you for the point of information.

Mr. Furlong: There is a provision in the budget for an additional \$33 million earmarked for GO Transit improvement and expansion. The budget has also provided \$426 million in funds directed towards the environment, an increase of 51 per cent over the 1985 levels.

L'expansion économique que connaît actuellement l'Ontario devrait se poursuivre au cours de 1988. Ces trois dernières années, l'économie ontarienne a enregistré un taux de croissance supérieur à seize pour cent et a créé 436 000 emplois. Notre économie en est maintenant à sa sixième année consécutive d'expansion et, ces dernières années, elle a dépassé la performance des pays industrialisés membres du groupe des Sept.

1600

Il ne faut pas tenir pour acquis que nous allons demeurer prospères sans rien faire pour le mériter. Il est important de continuer d'investir en vue de raffermir notre position concurrentielle sur les marchés mondiaux. Les gouvernements ont un rôle de leader à jouer dans le domaine. Il n'y a pas d'expansion économique possible sans que les gouvernements fassent les investissements nécessaires pour alimenter les moteurs du développement économique.

This government has made a commitment to continue to invest in our future. The Treasurer has said, "If we are to ensure the long-term strength of our economy, we must invest in our competitive position." He responded to the recommendation of the Premier's Council on technology by providing a stimulus to investment in research and development.

The research and development superallowance will provide an extra 25 per cent

deduction for large firms and 35 per cent for small business for R and D expenditures; \$38 million from the technology fund will be directed to a five-year technology personnel program which will help smaller firms hire up to 1,000 new engineering and technical staff.

If members want to see the effects of high technology, I invite them to visit the Autoplex at General Motors. It is in my riding.

Mr. Breaugh: No, it is not. At least the member should know where his riding is.

Mr. Furlong: I can assure the member for Oshawa that part of GM is in my riding.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Please continue. Ignore the interjections.

Mr. Furlong: In addition, tax assistance programs are available to those in need. The Ontario tax assistance programs will, in part, deliver \$494 million in tax credit benefits to over 1.8 million low-income Ontarians. It will provide sales tax credits set at \$100 per adult and \$50 per child, doubling the total benefits for low-income households. It will remove some 350,000 low-income taxpayers from the provincial tax roll.

In addition, in 1989, an additional 30,000 individuals and families will no longer pay OHIP premiums. Since 1986, 105,000 individuals and families have been exempt from OHIP premiums by government action. There continues to be a freeze on OHIP premiums since 1985.

To implement Ontario's new directions for child care, \$289 million has been designated. Each of the new schools constructed in the province will contain day care facilities. These facilities receive 100 per cent funding in the amounts of \$258,000 per elementary school site and \$495,000 per secondary school site. We are taking the first step in ensuring that our schools have a community-based focus.

I would like to echo the sentiments my colleague the member for Halton Centre (Mrs. Sullivan) made yesterday, applauding the initiatives of the lifting of the restrictions on Ontario Lottery fund revenues to provide for extra hospital funding.

Our government, and specifically our Treasurer, has tackled the problem inherited after 42 years of Tory conservatism with great courage and admirable fiscal responsibility. He has recognized the need to invest in those areas that will keep Ontario competitive in the global markets.

The strength of our economy allows us to address the backlog and begin to deal with the demands of the higher-growth areas, of which my riding of Durham Centre is one.

I was interested to read an article in the April 25 edition of the *Financial Times of Canada* by John MacFarlane. I quote from the article:

"Would anyone argue that Ontario has not reached significant economic benefits from the quality of its government services. Perhaps it is time to acknowledge that in health care, education and social services, which account for 67 cents of every dollar spent by the Ontario government, cutbacks are out of the question.

"As Nixon points out, the people in Ontario have come to expect and rely upon a high standard in health care, education and social services. They would be outraged at any government that proposed to withdraw them. A triple bypass is one of 100 expensive medical procedures to which they now feel entitled. They take it for granted that anyone with the talent and the ambition should be given the opportunity, no matter what the cost, to become a lawyer or a nuclear physicist, and they insist on the provision of legal aid for those who could not otherwise afford the protection of our courts.

"We have created a remarkably civilized and prosperous society, but we seldom stop to think about the cost of the government services upon which it rests. Assuming that there is a limit to what we can afford, how are we to know when we have reached it? Should the government attempt to ration transplants and CAT scans? Should it increase the pupil-teacher ratio in our elementary schools? Should it reduce grants to public transit or to public housing? The Treasurer has produced a budget that reminds us that prosperity has a price."

I would also like to refer to an editorial in the *Toronto Star* on April 21. It asked a question. The question was, "Are the tax increases justified?" The answer was:

"Yes. To a large extent the reason lies in the rapid rate of growth itself. Last year, for example, 110,000 people migrated to Ontario. In the past three years, the four regions surrounding Metro accounted for a full 25 per cent of Canada's total population growth.

"These forces have put powerful pressures on health care, education, housing and social services. To meet these rising needs, Nixon has allocated \$2.5 billion, or more than 80 per cent of all new spending into those four areas....

"Nixon could have paid for most of these spending increases with the revenues which he

expects from growth. But that would have left him with a higher budgetary deficit than last year's \$2.4-billion figure. Instead he took the opportunity to raise taxes to reduce the deficit to \$1.5 billion while economic growth is high. That will ensure that the government is able to continue providing essential services when the economic news is not so bright."

Finally, I would like to look at another editorial, this one in the *Globe and Mail*:

"Ontario did what it had to do yesterday to address social needs and strengthen its financial position, too. This was the Peterson government's first post-election budget, and it met the immediate challenge.

"There would have been no need for any tax increases if Treasurer Robert Nixon had been content to leave the budgetary deficit where it was—\$2.38 billion last year. In a booming economy, growth in government revenues on the existing tax base would have generated enough to cover the \$3 billion more for programs that Mr. Nixon is spending this year.

"But Mr. Nixon also launched the first real attack on the deficit in four years, reducing it by \$839 million to a planned \$1.54 billion. Economic growth paid for the new program spending; tax increases reduced the deficit. (Mr. Nixon introduced some personal tax breaks to soften the blow for lower-income people.)

"Yes, Mr. Nixon had another alternative, a much smaller increase in program spending—\$2 billion, say, instead of the \$3 billion planned for 1988-89. Many people would have preferred this, but even the \$3-billion increase means that spending is growing slightly more slowly than the Ontario economy. And even the \$3 billion (which includes \$308 million for higher debt charges) will be stretched to meet pressing demands for health care, education, social services and public infrastructure.

"Net migration to Ontario last year alone was 110,000 people. Subdivisions are expanding, businesses are growing and employment is high. Public spending should not grow faster than the economy, but it is difficult to argue that it should lag behind in these circumstances. Ontario is not Detroit.

"Mr. Nixon made a fair point in saying: 'We must continue to invest in our competitive position. Governments have a primary role in maintaining and improving the social infrastructure.' Finally tackling the deficit gives that statement a newly credible ring. And Ontario's per capita spending is still lower than that of six other provinces."

As members can see, we on the government side are not alone in believing that we have presented to this House a budget that is both fiscally responsible and in keeping with our promise to ensure that Ontario is competitive in the global market.

1610

I have listened with some interest to the addresses of members of the official opposition and the third party. I found little substance in the comments of the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot). This is not surprising, since I am sure he and I have basic philosophical differences on how government operations should be financed. Through this budget, however, the government has demonstrated sound fiscal management in reducing our budgetary deficit, while being sensitive to and providing for the needs of our education, health, housing, environmental and social service systems.

The Conservatives, on the other hand, rant and rave about the spending of this government. The member for Nipissing disagrees with the budget statement that increased revenues are needed for capital outlays in education, health, housing and social services. He suggests even that we are deceitful. I invite him to compare this budget to the last budget presented by his party when it formed the government. He will find that capital spending for education, health and housing has been dramatically increased. The facts speak for themselves. The Tories curtailed spending, as their record will show, in the fields of education and health, and they were virtually bankrupt in housing. At the same time, they were spending on Minaki Lodge and Suncor.

I would like to turn now to the region of Durham. This budget has provided in excess of \$37 million in direct capital grants to fund the building of six new elementary schools, three for the public board and three for the separate board. In addition, approval was given for the construction of a French-English secondary school.

A large portion of the \$33 million allocated to GO Transit will provide the necessary funding to complete the extension of the GO service from Pickering to Whitby.

Durham College of Applied Arts and Technology has received benefits from the \$440-million, four-year commitment to capital expansion for colleges and universities. It will be able to handle the anticipated space crunch by building a major addition to its main campus with a \$5-million capital grant.

Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars has been allocated by the Ministry of Health as part

of a \$1.4-million annual operating allowance to provide 86 supportive housing beds and seven new community mental health programs for the psychiatrically disabled in the catchment area served by the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital. This is the first stage in the \$81.2-million redevelopment project for the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital.

Durham has also benefited from the initiatives in the Ministry of Housing. Earlier this year, 561 nonprofit residential units for Durham region were part of the federal-provincial nonprofit housing allocations for 1988. Since 1986, when Ontario began administering the program, more than 13,500 units have been committed across the province, for a total of 20,500 units by the end of 1988. This budget provides support for housing that will exceed \$1.4 billion. We are making great strides to provide all Ontario citizens with affordable housing.

I support and endorse the comments congratulating the Treasurer on his commitment to the spending for the environment areas, as were so eloquently stated by my colleague from York East (Ms. Hart) in her address to this House yesterday. I can assure members that the residents of Durham region, who recently embarked upon an aggressive curbside recycling program, applaud the government's commitment to the environment. I must say Durham would also encourage all municipalities to work aggressively to find solutions within their own communities to handle and reduce their garbage.

Le budget annonce les intentions du gouvernement dans le domaine socio-économique. Ce budget-ci démontre clairement que le gouvernement gère sainement les deniers publics et qu'il est aussi préoccupé au plus haut point par les questions sociales.

In conclusion, I want to assure members that as a consumer and as a member of the typical family of four, I too will feel the impact of tax increases. However, I will also enjoy the benefits and feel the effects of the benefits from the increased services that this budget will provide.

I will have increased environmental protection, better school facilities for my children, assurance that transportation routes will be upgraded and maintained, continued access to a high excellence of health care and the knowledge that we are striving to provide for the future in a fiscally responsible manner without transferring the costs to our children.

This budget gives the assurance that we will move towards the 21st century as a competitive, compassionate, viable and well-served community.

Mr. Pouliot: On behalf of my friend the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), who needs little help in defending the philosophy that he has brought forward over the many years, I wish to congratulate the member for Durham Centre, who has expressed his views in a fashion that is suited to the good fortunes of Ontario—and he has remained positive and relatively nonpartisan throughout. But if I may, to come back, in terms of the difference between the two philosophies I have to find it somewhat ironic that a person on the one hand can associate himself with the Liberal Party of Ontario and talk about philosophy in the same breath. It is at the least ironic.

What the member for Nickel Belt mentioned in his address last week in response to the budget was the following: the party with the social conscience, the New Democratic Party of Ontario, has absolutely no quarrel with paying for services. I mentioned yesterday that better roads, new schools and better hospitals cost money and that we as consumers are quite willing not only to recognize that simple equation but to pay. What concerns us is that the less fortunate in our society and the middle class in our society are asked to carry the tax burden for people who have more.

We have no quarrel with increased services; we welcome increased services. We have some quarrel, but not that much, with paying for those services. We are asking very simply that it be done by everyone, especially the people who can afford more than other people to pay their fair share. It is very simple.

Mr. Beer: I too would like to commend my colleague the member for Durham Centre on his remarks today on the budget and, in particular, to underline what I think is important to all of us who are representing the fast-growth areas of Durham and York and Peel, what we are experiencing in terms of the tremendous pressures that are being put on educational, health, social, transportation and housing services.

One of the things that is clear to all of us in those areas is that there will be this continuing need over a long period of time, probably at least another decade, as we try to find the funds to pay for the kinds of services that we are going to require.

I think the member for Durham Centre has very clearly set out the dilemma and challenge that was in front of the Treasurer and how effectively in that budget the Treasurer sought to deal with both the issue of the deficit and trying to deal with that down and, as he has said, putting his

net cash requirements in better shape, while at the same time dealing with the very real needs that we have in those fast-growing regions and particularly, again, in terms of education and in terms of health services.

I think it is awfully important that those of us who are in the fast-growth areas continue to bring that message to this House and to this Legislature, because it is quite frightening when one looks at the population increases, as was noted very clearly by my colleague, in those areas. We are going to continue to have those tremendous pressures in all of these areas from now on and for a great deal of time further. The initiatives which we have taken this year are positive ones. We are keeping our eye on both of the important aspects, which are getting those services funded and getting the deficit down.

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Mr. Pollock: I just want to comment briefly on the comments of the member for Durham Centre about Minaki Lodge. I know that millions of dollars were spent on Minaki Lodge, but let us face it, there were millions of dollars spent right here in downtown Toronto on, say, Ontario Place, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the McMichael Canadian Collection, and it goes on and on. We lose more money on those things than was spent on Minaki Lodge all the time it was being built.

I cannot think it is so wrong to spend some money out in the rural areas. The people from the rural areas have to pay taxes too. I have been at Minaki Lodge, and when I was there it was employing well over 50 students on a summer program to train them in that particular line of work. They got those students from some of the northern colleges, and they were glad to get the jobs; they were training them there. As far as I was concerned, there were a lot of American tourists there and it was bringing money into that particular part of the country.

I might just say there was no mention in the budget as far as the Ministry of Natural Resources is concerned. There was no money for that particular ministry at all. I have been asking the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) to come down to my riding and look at an abandoned railroad to see if the government would even consider taking it over, and he will not even reply whether he is going to come or not. The Ministry of Natural Resources budget went up only one per cent overall.

Mrs. Marland: I congratulate the member for Durham Centre. I think that was his first speech in the House, and I do commend him for that

effort. I might just help him and the people he represents about one area. He did refer to education, but I think he might like to know that there was a submission from the Durham public board and the Durham separate board which said, and I quote:

"The public expectation created during the recent provincial election and fuelled by recent announcements that all class sizes in grades 1 and 2 in Ontario will average 20 students has greatly aggravated the already serious accommodation problem in growth boards. The reality for the Peel Board of Education alone would be an additional 140 classrooms for full implementation. For the eight boards represented here today, we are looking at a total of 652 classrooms, or the equivalent of 44 average-sized junior schools based on present numbers." That would include the former speaker's boards, I understand. "The present year's request for \$1.7 billion contains nothing for this implementation. Obviously, this reality will be reflected in capital requests next year and for years to come."

I think it is very significant when members of the caucus of the Liberal government speak about this budget that they do recognize that the reduction in class size simply is not fundable; it may be desirable but it is not fundable today in Ontario while the priorities for ordinary classrooms are not being met, simply because we have so many thousands of children in Ontario in portables. It is a lower standard of education when a child is in a portable, unfortunately.

Mr. Furlong: I can respond only to the member for Lake Nipigon by saying that I said in my statement that we do have a philosophical difference, and I will leave it at that.

I also would like to indicate to the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) that the point of my reference to Minaki Lodge and Suncor—I lumped them together; he might have missed that point—was that his party's priorities were a little out of whack. I am simply saying, when you are looking at capital funding for school boards in 1984 at \$80 million, the scheduling has to be out of whack. These children did not just arrive on the school scene. I am simply indicating that the priorities were not in place.

To the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland), I can suggest to her that it is my information, and I stand to be corrected, that based on the phase-in of the lower pupil-teacher ratio in grades 1 and 2, the Durham boards are already there. They will be receiving \$222 per student as cash flow-through, and they will be

able to use that money to do other things with it. When she says it is not fundable, Durham school boards will prove to her that it is in fact fundable.

Mr. Swart: I want to rise and speak in this debate and give—I was going to say the third dimension of opinion, but perhaps it is only the second dimension of opinion. The member for Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong) talked about having a philosophical difference from this party. I notice he did not say anything about having a different philosophical view from the Conservative Party. I think people who have been around here for a while really know there is not any different philosophical view, except that the one that is out would like to be in and the one that is in wants to stay there. That is about the only real difference.

I have to say that of the 13 or 14 budgets I have now heard in this House, to some extent this is a unique budget. It is unique in the sense that it is a budget which raised taxes more than any other budget since I have been here, yet it is a budget which has left so many provincial needs unmet. I do not know when there have been so many. That is the view of the public generally around this province.

There are those, particularly in the party on my immediate left—geographically, but philosophically some of them are way over on the right—whose main thrust of criticism is that the government is taking too much money, that the budget is too high, that it should not have made those kinds of increases to raise that additional amount of money.

I want to say that party is not totally alone in this view. There is quite a segment of society—I have here a clipping from the Welland Tribune, the day after the budget was announced.

An hon. member: The voice of authority.

Mr. Swart: Yes, the voice of authority.

It quotes an alderman in the city of Welland as saying, "The budget scares me in terms of the increases in sales and income taxes." It goes on: "At a time when people are projecting we are heading into a type of recession, it would be the best time to keep money in people's hands, not grab it from them. I do not think the economists will be happy with this," he said. "Last October, we had a meltdown in the stock market and there are feelings a recession is imminent. To impose a situation where purchasing power is limited is antiproduative."

That alderman happens to be Alderman Mark LaRose in the city of Welland, and he was my Liberal opposition in the last election. He was praising the virtues of the Liberal Party, and

these are his comments. He went on to say, "If I sat in the House, I would have something to say about that."

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I would just like to remind him and remind all the people of this province that there is not one of those Liberals over there who has had anything to say against the budget. If he was here in this House, he would be just the same as all of the rest of the Liberal members who were elected back on September 10 of last year. They would dutifully applaud the Treasurer when he announced his budget and they would applaud their other members when they get up to speak in support of it. He would do exactly the same thing. Now when he is out, when he did not make it, why, he makes those kinds of comments.

Mr. Ballinger: That's why he didn't make it.

Mr. Swart: It may be; and it may be why he might, I suppose, not even get the nomination next time, making comments like that about the Liberal government. But that is the Liberals' internal problem; that really does not worry me.

I am not going to talk about the excessive increase in the budget. As has been stated by the member for Durham Centre, we think perhaps this size of budget is necessary, though I must say we have a very philosophical difference about how this budget should be raised. When the government gets a budget of a \$3.75-billion increase, which is about the amount of increase in the budget this year, we do not think that practically all of that money should be raised from the lower- and middle-income groups, from the working people of this province. When you look at this \$3.75-billion increase, \$1.5 billion of that is raised in the sales tax alone.

All studies that have been done—I do not need to belabour this point—show that the sales tax is a regressive tax. It falls most heavily on those with lower incomes, yet \$1.5 billion has been raised in that manner. As well, \$750 million has been raised in regressive income tax. The income tax in itself is not particularly a regressive tax, but if you are levying that on those who are below the poverty line, as this government does—people who are \$7,000 below the poverty line are going to have their income tax raised—that then is a regressive tax. The government had the opportunity to make it much less regressive. It chose not to do that. When you raise \$175 million in gasoline tax, that is not at all based on ability to pay, either. If you add those all up, the great majority of that \$3.75-billion increase in taxes is being raised from the working people and, for

that matter, those of lower income in this province. That is what we take issue with.

I am not sure whether the member for Durham Centre really meant it, but he said he listened to the member for Nickel Belt—and my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon dealt with this—and he said he could not see anything of substance in it. I do not know what his interpretation of substance is, but there was the entire variation, a substantial difference of philosophy in how you raise additional taxes. I would call that substantial when we want taxes taken off the people below the poverty line. The people over there may not think that is important, they may not think that is substantial. We on this side of the House do. We think those people should not be paying those taxes.

I just want to go on and say that in spite of this increase, the main services to Ontario citizens in this province have never been in greater disarray. That is a factual statement: in education, in particular colleges and universities, but in elementary and secondary education too; in health, particularly in the area of hospitals and drugs for seniors; in community and social services, in rape crisis centres, in services for the handicapped, whether it is mental or physical; and in day care and in housing. There has never been the disarray in housing—in every field—

Mr. Ballinger: Oh, that is not true.

Mr. Swart: It absolutely is true. I will deal with that in a few more minutes.

I just want to say that the combination of these massive taxes and the unprecedented needs says something about the effectiveness of this government, the priorities of this government and the quality of its administration. What it says is that in those regards they are blowing it on almost every count. They are immobile. Now that they have their huge majority, they are immobile. They are not initiators and they are so wedded to the marketplace and to the corporate sector that they really cannot make any new moves. It is the same old philosophy that they are applying to all of the decisions they are making: the marketplace and the corporate sector shall decide these things.

I mentioned housing just a few minutes ago, and the member for Durham Centre said that the vacancy rate was 0.15 in his riding. My gosh, I would think that is an admitted condemnation. The Liberal government has been in power for three years and that is the vacancy rate; nobody can get anyplace to live?

Mr. Breagh: Nice guy, but he misplaced the entire General Motors complex and got in trouble.

Mr. Swart: Yes, and the backlog of cases with regard to rent review has never been greater than it has been under this Liberal government for the last year or two. How many cases are there, 25,000 backlog—

Mr. Breaugh: It is 26,000 and something.

Mr. Swart: —26,000 and something backlog of cases?

Mr. Ballinger: We're working on it.

Mr. Swart: Oh, yes, they are working on it. It is like somebody is digging a hole. They are getting in deeper all the time.

And there have been these massive increases in rent, 30 per cent increases that my leader has documented here in the House. Where is their rent control? There have been these flips of the housing. What have they been doing about that, where the price of the apartment buildings may go up 50 per cent in two days and then the tenants have to pay? No, the rent review has never been in a greater shambles than it is at the present time.

What about construction of new homes? What does the government estimate this year, 85,000 units this year compared to 105,000 last year? We had a tremendous shortage of housing at the end of last year, and they are going to reduce the numbers by 20 per cent?

Prices are up three per cent in one month? The average price of a house in Toronto is up 58 per cent in the last two years.

Are the Liberals proud of that? Do they think it is good administration that those kinds of things happen? Of course not. And do members know what is the prime culprit in all this?

Mr. Black: Let's not talk about housing, let's talk about—

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Breaugh: I saw a white flag go up over there.

Mr. Swart: That is not a white flag. I know from looking in the mirror; that is hair.

There is one prime culprit in this housing situation—and I am being serious on this—and that is speculation. You have the entrepreneurs here who see a way of making a fast buck, and the flipping of the houses is what is causing these high rent increases. It has been speculation on land that has driven the price of houses out of reach. The government itself now is charging \$160,000 a lot on its land out in Scarborough.

Mr. Breaugh: Oh, but it's good news.

Mr. Ballinger: It's old news.

Mr. Swart: So it is old news, but it is very real, my friend. It is very real, and when you get

this situation where now in the greater Toronto area the price of land is more than the cost of building a house, I say there is something wrong with that housing program and something wrong with the values in our society when you allow such speculators, and yet this government refuses to put on the speculation tax. The member for Durham Centre has left, but he said there was no substance. I suppose the government does not think a speculation tax is anything of substance.

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Mr. Polsinelli: It doesn't work.

Mr. Swart: It doesn't work? He documented that it does work. Of course, it does not work for the criteria of the Treasurer, who wants to use it to make money, but that is not the purpose of it. It is to stop speculation, and it does work.

There is public land development, which even a Conservative government in this province initiated many years ago, and they were a bit more progressive than they have been in recent times. In fact, before the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman) got into the caucus, they had public land development and it did a lot to keep the price of land down. Either they do not care about what is happening in housing, or I think it is really the other way around. They are not prepared to intervene, to step on the toes of their friends.

In the field of community and social services, there are many areas which are also in a very serious situation with regard to service to the needy in our society. I am not going to go over a lot of them, but in day care, the doubling of day care spaces still will not meet the need that we have in Ontario, even if the government is able to double them. That is the shortage in that area. We know what has been going on for the last month or two in rape crisis centres because of lack of funding, because they do not have the money to pay the staff. We know what has been taking place there, and with the physically and mentally handicapped.

I want to give an example of the city of Welland. The other day I called the Welland District Association for Community Living to find out what the situation was there with regard to meeting the needs that we have in that community. They tell me that of those who are in the sheltered workshops, those who are mentally handicapped and in the community work sites, there are 67 in the programs. There are 33 on the waiting list. There are those who are waiting at home, some of them for more than two years, to go into a sheltered workshop or into a community

program, and they are out there waiting to get into those programs.

Numbers of residential units have been set up to provide living for these same people. We have 80 of them living in those units in Welland, but we have another 22 on the waiting list with very little hope of their getting in at all, because those people who are in there now simply do not move out. They have to have more units, which is the only way they can provide those residential homes for them.

It is over a year ago now that there was a publication put out called Challenges and Opportunities. It was a seven-year plan to deal with the services for this group of people, the mentally handicapped. That was approved by cabinet over a year ago. There has been no funding of it yet. It is a great program on paper. The association for community living commended it at the time. They are surprised that no funding was put in last year, and they are equally surprised that there is no funding for it this year either. What is the use of having something like that which has no meaning in practice? There are a lot of needs to be met, tremendous needs, urgent needs to be met in the field of community and social services, which are not being met.

We have heard a lot about education in the last few days, for a variety of reasons.

Mr. Ballinger: Good news.

Mr. Swart: Good news? The local taxpayers do not think it is good news. Do members know that in this House 12 years ago, in the budgets that were brought in, almost 60 per cent of the money for elementary and secondary education was being provided by the provincial government?

Mr. Polsinelli: In most areas of the province it still is.

Mr. Swart: The average is 41 per cent, my friend.

Mr. Polsinelli: The average.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Swart: The average in those days was 58 per cent. We have had a Liberal—

Yes, Mr. Speaker, ignore the interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: And you shall address your remarks through the Speaker, of course.

Mr. Swart: I am delighted, Mr. Speaker, to direct my remarks to you, because you are so understanding. Not only that, you never make these nasty interjections that people do over on the other side. I will make my comments to you.

The taxpayers, in the regressive property tax, have had to pick up a much greater share than

they had to 10 years ago. Since it came in, this Liberal government has not done anything to resolve that, nothing; even though when they were over on this side of the House, that was a big issue: the government over there then, how it was betraying the public of this province, letting education be funded on that regressive property tax.

Such things as the numbers in portables at this time, when we know we have not had any great growth in school attendance over the years. I am not blaming this all on the present government, because this situation existed to a large extent before they came in. For instance, in the rather slow-growth area of the Niagara Peninsula, in Denis Morris secondary—and where is the member for St. Catharines-Brock (Mr. Dietsch), because it is in his riding, a riding represented by a Liberal?—they have 29 classrooms. Do members know how many portables they have? Twenty-five. Almost half the school population is in portable classrooms. Is that satisfactory? Is that even excusable?

We know the funding for colleges and universities is still inadequate. To the Liberal government's credit, it has increased it proportionately to what the other provinces have been doing. Three or four years ago, Ontario spent the least amount of money per capita for university students. Now I guess we are getting up someplace close to the middle, but I would remind those people over there, through you, Mr. Speaker, that they are constantly bragging about what a wealthy province it is under this Liberal government. Many of those other provinces are poor, yet here is a province that is one of the wealthiest in this nation, which still cannot get above the average, and perhaps not even up to it, on the funding of our universities.

Of course, colleges are even worse. They are in a crisis. There is no other way describing it at the present time. The colleges of applied arts and technology in this province are in a crisis. When 18 out of 22 colleges expect to have deficits between \$1.5 million and \$3.5 million this year, this inevitably means drastic cuts in programs and, therefore, in the number of students who can be admitted, I would say we are in a real state of crisis under this Liberal government.

Yet, of course, we have the Premier saying in this House just three weeks ago, on April 7: "we are committed to accessibility. We are committed to the maximum number of young people receiving post-secondary education." If ever the old adage, "Your actions speak so loud, I can't hear what you say," is appropriate, it is on the

funding of our colleges and accessibility for the students in this province.

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Let me just quote from a report that was made by the president's executive council to the board just recently at Niagara College, and I quote verbatim, "To address this financial shortfall, it had been recommended by officials in the Ministry of Colleges and Universities at an earlier meeting that the college curtail the number of academic offerings and services to the post-secondary population of the regional municipality of Niagara, effective September 1988."

The consequences of such a reduction would be: "Denial of access to 546 students over the next 12 months as a result of cancellation of as many as 16 of the programs currently offered in the college. One in three eligible students could therefore be denied entry into the college."

This is the result of the recommendation of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities: "Reduction of our full-time staff complement by 77 persons, or 14 per cent. Simultaneously, as a result of the forced downsizing of our adult training operation, consequent to the Canada-Ontario agreement, the college is in the process of reducing by 24 staff, four per cent, in the 1988-1989 year."

And finally, "The total reduction of our full-time staff could be as high as 103, 18 per cent, one in five employees, during this year, with a long-term impact of 139 employees or 24 per cent."

That is the situation Niagara College is in.

Mr. Ballinger: What's your point?

Mr. Swart: Oh, I am glad you asked. I am sorry. Yes, I was just going to say that the point of this is that the Liberal government over there, particularly the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, is destroying our college system. They are dramatically limiting accessibility. They are cutting programs.

The whole purpose of community colleges—and I am old enough to remember and of course, everybody in this House is old enough to remember when we first got community colleges—was to locate these colleges across this province so that post-secondary students and others who wanted to upgrade their education could get that in the community. That was the purpose of it, so they could get it in the community.

Although the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and the minister of course, never say it publicly, the simple fact is that they are now moving dramatically away from that philosophy.

They are going to streamline. So they want cut out 16. They are cutting out the theatre arts program in Welland. It is one of the two or three good ones in Ontario. Students come there from as far away as Manitoba to take that program. They are cutting out, even in Welland—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Swart: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, because I was speaking to you and I am being interrupted by people whom I am not even talking to, whom I am talking about, of course, but not talking to.

They are even cutting out the bilingual secretarial program, or propose to cut it out, as a result of these cutbacks. In a community where 17 per cent of the population considers French its native tongue, they are cutting out the bilingual secretarial program, and I am asked what the point is.

The point is that we want these programs continued. We need them not only for the people of Welland; we need these programs that are given in all of the colleges continued so that the post-secondary students and others have access to a wide range, and in the long run can acquire the kind of education that will be of great value and make them of greater value to our society. That is the bottom line. That is the point in what I am saying here.

What the government is doing is betraying two things, and I am using that word "betraying" advisedly. It is betraying its commitment to accessibility; you cannot have access to programs that are not there. Second, it is betraying the original and ongoing principle that community colleges were designed to provide a broad range of courses for the people living in that community, the majority of whom cannot afford to come to Toronto or someplace else to get that education, so that they do not have to go away from home.

I want to touch very briefly on the health situation in our society. I would like to touch on it at much greater length, but I do not want to speak too long. I know I will be applauded for saying that; I will be applauded even more loudly if I do it.

Of course, this is, as we all know, the biggest ministry of the government in many ways, but certainly in funding, and I guess perhaps it is fouled up the worst of all. I want to say immediately, though, that sometimes when one is critical, even legitimately, of the operation of a service or a program, one can lose sight of the principle behind it and maybe destroy the philosophy. I want to say that regardless of

problems which exist in our health system, it is so far superior to the private health system they have in the United States, which, incidentally, we would still have in Canada and in Ontario if it had not been for the New Democratic Party bringing it in in the west, that we should continue to remind ourselves of its advantages.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Swart: I have been to Florida occasionally and sometimes when I am down there, I pick up some newspaper clippings.

Interjections.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, you will notice I am ignoring the interjections.

I have here a copy of the Tampa Tribune. This was just a little bit over a year ago. I cannot take time to read it, but it talks about how at Tampa General Hospital a valet attired in a wine-coloured jacket parks cars free for those going to see the physicians at the new Harbourside Medical Tower. At Largo Medical Centre patients can dine on filet mignon, poulet à l'orange and chocolate éclairs.

Then it goes on to talk about the competition to get these well-paying patients to come in. Let me go on and read the really serious part: "On an average day in 1986, about 1,600 hospital beds were empty in Hillsborough while roughly 2,000 were unfilled in Pinellas county, according to the health council of west central Florida, yet even these hospitals then made money."

I would like to read these, but I will not take the time, especially when my whip has sent me a note that if I do not finish in five minutes, I will not get on to question period for three weeks.

They point out that there are 35 million people in the United States who cannot get into hospitals; not those on welfare, but the low-income wage earners. Incidentally, many of those are black. Thirty-five million really have no access, so let us never knock the principle of public health insurance or medicare or the Ontario health insurance plan or whatever you want to call it when we are criticizing the administration here.

I am going to conclude by pointing out that it has been, and is being, tremendously badly administered here, in spite of the soundness of the principle. It is little short of deplorable. Ask the people waiting to get into hospitals. Ask the people laying on stretcher beds in admitting departments or hallways. Ask the administrators who cannot get funds for additions or nurses.

1700

Anybody looking at the basic figures objectively can tell what is wrong. The budget for hospitals is \$5.5 billion. That is a 6.9 per cent increase this year, but it is really up only 4.4 per cent for the hospitals. The doctors have a budget of \$4 billion. It is up this year by 10.8 per cent, after a 17 per cent increase last year.

Then when we look at the number of hospital employees, those figures are not too far apart. There are 125,000 hospital employees who are getting 75 per cent of that \$5.5 billion, and 22,000 doctors who are getting more than 75 per cent of that \$4 billion. If we work that out, it means that the employees, for all expenses, are getting about \$33,000 per employee; the doctors are getting about \$135,000.

It is said, of course, that the doctors have a lot more people coming to see them, that there are a lot more operations. Of course there are, but there are more people going to the hospital too, and when we fund the hospitals at a 4.4 per cent increase and we fund doctors at 10.8 per cent—

Interjection.

Mr. Swart: Because they have much more clout with that government over there, that is why. They are the ones with the clout with that government. They get the money and that is why we are in the problem we are. If we shared that equally, we could be out of a lot of those problems. Welland County General Hospital is caught in this bind as badly as any in Ontario. That government over there has to revise its priorities in the health field if we are going to get the solutions that the people of this province are demanding, I want to tell members. They are pretty unhappy with the way things are.

In conclusion, I just go back to where I started. There is a dramatic increase in the provincial budget this year, but there is equally a growing increase in the unmet needs of the people of this province. That ought to tell us something about the government and the way it is operating. More and more people throughout this province are realizing that when they gave that party its huge majority, it was the worst thing they could have done.

The Deputy Speaker: Do members want to respond.

Mr. Polsinelli: It is my pleasure to respond to the comments of the member for Welland-Thorold. I did agree with him when he was talking about our publicly funded health care system. He was talking about medicare. I think it is one of the finest systems in the world. It is

costing us a lot of money; I am sure he knows that. Thirty-three cents of every tax dollar we pay goes towards our health care system and we collect only 29 cents in personal income taxes, so we can understand some of the pressures and strains on government in terms of funding our health care system.

I was a little bit unsure what he was saying in his final comments when he was talking about the various allocations in the budget. Was the member saying that we should cut doctors' pay or that we should raise the pay of everybody else who works in the health care system? That is something I hope he will clarify in his comments.

I personally found the speech of the member for Welland-Thorold to be very enlightening because I think I have finally understood how the official opposition, the New Democratic Party, the socialist party, would pay all its bills and would have a whole host of new programs. What it is doing is that on the revenue side of the equation, when it is calculating how much added revenue it would get in new taxes, it grossly overestimates what it would get.

For example, the member for Welland-Thorold indicated that a one per cent increase in the retail sales tax would bring in about \$1.5 billion, when the reality is that the Treasury officials are estimating it would bring just over half of that amount.

On the expenditure side of the equation, what they do is greatly underestimate what the new programs would cost. They have spoken of reducing it so that families with less than \$25,000 in family income would pay no provincial income tax and they say that would cost the province about \$100 million. That is a figure that is so far from reality that it goes to prove my point on how the official opposition would pay for its government programs. They overestimate what they would get in taxes, underestimate what the programs would cost, and they would solve the world's problems.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I want first of all to say how much I enjoyed listening to the member for Welland-Thorold, as we always do. I think the member has to be one of the best and most knowledgeable speakers in this Legislature.

When the member was talking about the medicare system, I would like to ask whether he was talking not necessarily along the same lines as the previous speaker, but more along the line that instead of doctors getting the fee for services they now get, in getting rewarded for seeing patients time and time again, he would endorse the idea of going towards more community

health centres and health service organizations, which reward doctors and people in the health care system for preventive medicine and which try to have health promotion. This is the direction the government says it wants to move in, but since it has taken office, in three years it has done virtually nothing to head in that direction.

We all know from the experience in Sault Ste. Marie, where they have a health service organization, that hospital utilization is considerably lower than it is for other communities. We know that in other jurisdictions, they have been experimenting extensively with health maintenance organizations. Economically and from a health care perspective as well, we know that it is very, very successful.

I wonder whether the member shares my concern that the government talks a good line on reforming the health care system, but instead just spends more and more money on institutions and doctors' salaries. In the end, we really do not get an improved quality of health care.

I would also like to ask the member if, in talking to his constituents, he had the same experience I did last weekend. People were absolutely outraged with another aspect of the health care budget, and that was the tax unfairness imposed by the Treasurer, where sales taxes and gasoline taxes are way up, but people with huge incomes are still able to get away with paying absolutely no income tax in Ontario.

Mr. Ballinger: I would first like to agree with the member for Windsor-Riverside that since my election in September, the honourable member for Welland-Thorold has been probably one of the better speakers in the House. He probably provides, for the newer members, a very enlightening aspect of what goes on in Ontario.

I would like to say, though, that the only problem I find with the member for Welland-Thorold is that when he speaks, he speaks of doom and gloom on a continual basis. Things are not that bad in this province. They are not as bad as the member for Welland-Thorold tries to portray on every issue. Every time he stands in this House, he speaks of nothing but doom and gloom. This is a good budget. The people who live in this province do not share the same concerns the member for Welland-Thorold does on every aspect of it.

Mr. Villeneuve: Be here next Tuesday, Bill.

Mr. Ballinger: I hope to be here for the next four years. I can say to the member that as a new member, I continuously feel like a punching bag in this Legislature. The opposition members do nothing, ever. All they ever do is complain. They

never contribute anything positive to the process whatsoever and I really do believe they should take a more objective look at this budget and they will see there are some good points in there for the people of Ontario, and they agree with us.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Would any other honourable member wish to comment? If not, the member for Welland-Thorold has a chance to respond for two minutes.

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Mr. Swart: I want to reply to that last one first. He is the only member I ever knew in this House who has got up and said he hoped he would be here for this term, four more years. I guess he realizes the inevitable, the way his government is going. Talking about doom and gloom, I think maybe that is the ultimate in personal doom and gloom.

We deal with this for two reasons. First—talking about doom and gloom; we do not deal with that all the time—it is the job of the opposition to point out the errors and the faults in government. That is the reason for having an opposition. The Liberals would like to have it like New Brunswick, I am sure, but they do not have that privilege here. There is an opposition. Second, if we are going to do our job even half-heartedly, we have to spend all of our time talking about the faults of the government. There are so many.

I want also to reply to the member for Yorkview and say either the member for Yorkview was not listening or he has not looked at the budget. In my remarks, I said there was a one per cent increase in the sales tax. I also said that this year the sales tax took \$1.5 billion more than it did last year. Those statements are correct.

Mr. Polsinelli: So you weren't just talking about the one per cent.

Mr. Swart: I was not talking about the one per cent. Either the member was not listening or, more than that, I think he is trying to take the easy way out now. If he looks at his budget, he will find there is a \$1.51-billion increase this year in the sales tax. I say to him that is too much if he wants a fair tax system.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker): Order.

Mr. Villeneuve: That is a difficult act to follow here, but I will try.

It is a privilege to participate in this debate on a budget that was not good news for Ontario. I will put forward some of the positives that I think should have occurred. I will not be only negative, as some people are accusing this side of being.

When the Premier took office some two and a half years ago, he told the press and a number of people that he was a very fortunate Premier indeed, the most fortunate for many years in Ontario. He took over after a recession, a period of time when interest rates, as we all remember, went well into the double digits, into the 20s, and he took over a province that had been pretty well administered during those very difficult economic times. What I am afraid this budget tells this province and certainly tells this party is that the Premier and the Treasurer will ensure that their successors are not nearly as fortunate as they were when they took over in 1985.

I think we are seeing living proof of this now. I think the public of Ontario is starting to realize what it got on September 10 last. Certainly the election on March 31 last gave a message. Remember, that election came before this great budget by the Treasurer. I dare say, if that election were to be held today, the figures would be even higher in favour of the Tory candidate, who was an excellent candidate and who will be an excellent member of this Legislature for many years to come, not only this term.

I am here primarily to talk about agriculture and food, the most basic industry to this province. Agriculture employs directly in the production of food something less than three per cent and yet provides employment directly and indirectly for well over 20 per cent of the residents of Ontario and provides some of the finest-quality food anywhere in the world.

What we have seen in the budget pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is shocking. We have seen the smallest increase of any ministry, less than two per cent, when indeed inflation is at 4.7 per cent, government spending is in the double digits and government income is also in the double digits.

We had from the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) a report in early January. The heading reads as follows: "Assessment of the Impacts of the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement on the Ontario Agriculture and Food Sector." This is a report that was prepared by the minister. It states that agriculture stands to lose \$95 million because of the free trade agreement. If that is right on, where is agriculture being looked after in this budget? A two per cent increase. That is a shame. If the member believes this, then he has not done his homework.

I think it is an affront to the agricultural community of this province to be faced with a report which says they stand to lose \$95 million and then be forgotten totally in the budget. The

1.9 per cent increase in Agriculture and Food is barely sufficient to give the employees in Agriculture and Food an increase of 4.7 per cent, which is anticipated to be the inflation rate. I think there is a very serious dichotomy here. Either this government does not believe its own report or it has told agriculture, "We don't care a damn about you." It is one or the other. It cannot have it both ways.

The Ontario farm management, safety and repairs program, a most popular program: \$50 million, totally subscribed, totally gone. The farmers cannot apply for the 1988 portion any more; it is totally subscribed.

The Ontario cream quality assistance program: Cream producers of Ontario found out in November that they had to improve their facilities in order to qualify to produce a quality product. This particular grant, only \$1.5 million, was terminated on March 31, before the farmers even had time to find out what it would cost to upgrade their facilities or indeed to make those expenditures. The Minister of Agriculture and Food has said he would look at it. I guess he is still looking because it certainly was not mentioned in this budget.

However, it is alarming to read, on page 47, table 5 of the 1988 budget report, headed "Target Expenditure Savings and Constraints Secured in 1987-88." Would you believe, Madam Speaker, how many millions of dollars were removed from the agricultural budget of 1987-88? It is right there up on top: a \$20-million saving. In a ministry that has less than a two per cent increase, they go and chop off \$20 million from the 1987-88 program. We have the Ontario farm management, safety and repairs program fully subscribed, a very popular program providing services to Ontario agriculture, yet they cut the budget for Agriculture and Food by some \$20 million.

I will use a small example, one I think the members will understand. Anticipated tobacco tax revenue for one year is \$776 million. What is the total cost of operating the Agriculture and Food budget? It is \$567 million over a year. We have a \$110-million surplus on tobacco tax only. That is enough to fund the entire additional capital program this budget encompasses, the difference between operating the Agriculture and Food budget and the \$110-million difference in tobacco tax revenue. It totally funds this Treasurer's increase in capital expenditures in one year.

Members may ask what the additional operating expenditures of this government and this budget are in one year. It is \$3 billion-plus. That

is what it costs in additional operating expenditures, because of a large increase in bureaucrats, a large increase in whatever this government feels it needs to give to its friends. There we go: \$3 billion additional operating expenses and \$100 million in additional capital expenses year over year.

I think it is rather pathetic. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture sums it up, and I want to read into the record what the OFA president, Brigid Pyke, has to say in part. "Stand-Pat Budget a Disappointment to Farmers"—I think Brigid is being kind when she heads it this way.

"This is essentially a stand-pat budget that will disappoint Ontario's farmers," said Brigid Pyke, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. "That the budget is very silent on OFFIRR and crop insurance program is ominous. We hope this doesn't indicate a weakening of government support for farmers facing difficult markets," says the president of the OFA.

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"Commenting on OFFIRR, Pyke noted, 'The debt load of Ontario farmers has not fallen significantly since OFFIRR was introduced. The real cost of carrying debt has remained high. We're disappointed the government didn't reaffirm its commitment to a program that put much-needed cash in the hands of hard-hit farmers.'

"On the crop insurance program, she pointed out, 'Basic changes are unfunded after two years of study and discussion.'"

The president of the OFA finishes her press release with this:

"In the beef industry, for example, Ontario farmers get a little over \$6 in government support for every \$100 of cash receipts. Compare this with our sister province, the province of Quebec, where beef producers get over \$45 of every \$100 in cash receipts. Government commitment to the industry is essential to maintain market share. We'll be working with government to ensure that commitment is backed up with dollars,' says the president of the OFA."

That is a condemnation and it is actually a kind condemnation. It could have been much, much harsher. We have a situation where the one per cent increase in sales tax will add approximately \$2,000 of additional cost to an average new home in the city of Toronto. It will be less than that in the riding I represent in the far eastern reaches of Ontario because we seem to be able to put up houses for somewhat less money. However, we still have to put furniture in that new home and the car under that carport also has to have that

additional one per cent sales tax. The average family of four will be paying approximately \$1,000 a year in sales tax alone, up some \$112 just because of the increase of one per cent.

On the petroleum increase, I would have liked to have seen something slightly different, something like: "Fine, leaded gas is a polluter. Let's put it in a price range that is in excess of the unleaded gas so that we would have an incentive to use no-lead gas."

That was not done. This was a grab-grab budget: "We'll grab here and we'll grab there. Let's forget about the consumers." It would have been very, very easy to do.

Again, I am glad—I thought the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) was here. He was here a moment ago and I see he is gone.

However, I want to address some problems in a positive fashion. We have in Ontario a large surplus of grain corn. It could have been turned into ethanol, ethanol plus. It has already been tried by the United Co-op. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) is here and he knows that much of the pollution created in the province of Ontario is produced from car emissions, and that is a problem.

The federal government has decreed that by 1992 we must be rid of lead. We can, through a home-grown solution, be producing methanol-ethanol, a mixture, a blend I am sure the Minister of the Environment is familiar with.

I want to quote a few figures here: "Ethanol, a high-octane, pure chemical, can be produced from sugar, starch-containing grain such as corn or cellulosic compounds such as straw or wood. In addition to being renewable fuel, ethanol has properties which include high-octane value and low exhaust emissions."

Where was this government if indeed it is committed to a cleaner environment? Why could we not take a lead and set up some methanol-ethanol plants right here in Ontario so that we can have a home-grown solution to a problem that can be addressed by governments?

"Provision of an additional domestic market for Ontario corn and the development of value added industries" is one of a number of benefits. "Provision of an environmentally safe source of octane to replace existing octane boosters such as lead, MMT and aromatic hydrocarbons." I might add that MMT is a serious polluter and it is all imported from the United States.

"Enhancing Canadian energy, self-sufficiency and reducing future dependence on imported light crude oil, diversification of the economy, promotion of regional development by creating

new investments and employment opportunities in Canada" and particularly right here in Ontario where we have a surplus of grain.

On another subject, also involving the possibility of pollution—it is not only a possibility, it is a fact of life and the Minister of the Environment will be aware of this one as well—in the Niagara Peninsula, the Ministry of Transportation has been found guilty of polluting some orchards through the use of road salt or calcium chloride. A replacement for road salt, something we take for granted, could be calcium magnesium acetate, or CMA; it is just as effective as salt and only one tenth as corrosive.

That is a positive move, but there were no positive moves in this particular budget. It was simply a matter of grabbing money shortly after an election and hoping that in four or three and a half years the electorate will have forgotten. I assure members, this party will make sure the electorate does not forget what happened in early April 1988 when this budget came down.

We have a number of other areas, and I know that many Liberal back-benchers and front-benchers represent urban ridings and also a lot of rural Ontario. I wonder what the member for St. Catharines-Brock and the member for Lincoln (Mr. Pelissero), in those grape-producing areas, would tell their hard-pressed grape producers because of a certain decision under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on discriminatory pricing of their product. What are they going to tell their farmers? What is in there for them? A two per cent increase to satisfy the wage increase of the bureaucrats. That is really all that is in there.

I would not like to be the one to go into rural Ontario and try to defend this type of budget. Had there been some positive aspects to it, had there been innovative ways of using some of our surplus farm production, it would have been different. Farmers are still in distress. They are putting in a crop this spring. They are not too sure exactly what sort of a return, if any at all, there will be for the crop that they are going to work hard on, spending big money and a lot of time putting it into the ground.

Mr. Mahoney: Wait until next spring when we get free trade.

Mr. Villeneuve: Free trade is one of the reasons the economy will continue to be buoyant in this province, and the members know that. If they do not, then why did they not react to the so-called, supposed \$95-million loss that I spoke of a while ago?

Mr. Reycraft: You're telling us we should, but it's not going to occur.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Villeneuve: Madam Speaker, your predecessor in the chair is my neighbour in eastern Ontario and we have a mutual problem; it is no funding at all for major projects on the Nation River and by the South Nation River Conservation Authority. We have areas at Plantagenet, Brinston, Bear Brook and Augusta that need channelization. The previous government spent \$7 million in partially channelizing the South Nation River in the Chesterville-Winchester area. However, an additional \$12 million to \$15 million has to be spent.

We have some of the best land in eastern Ontario. It is tile-drained land. I know you come from a farming community, Madam Speaker, and you know what I am talking about. In the summer we have floods. We have photographs of corn eight feet tall, standing in six feet of water. That is a shame. The South Nation River has to be dredged; considerable funding has to be spent.

Some 10 days ago my colleague the Deputy Speaker and I met with the member for Essex-Kent (Mr. McGuigan), the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources. We did not get very good news. But I will continue the fight towards obtaining funds to channelize the South Nation River via the South Nation River Conservation Authority to protect the more than 10,000 acres in that area that are tile-drained but silting in at present.

The farmers have cleaned out their municipal drains. It is the main watercourse, the South Nation, that backs up in the summertime. Tile drains are silting in. Ten years from now, it is rumoured—and it is not only rumoured, it is a fact—that if we have water backing up in these tiles for very long, we will have a silting-in process that not only will reduce the effectiveness of these tiles but certainly can render them totally inoperable.

I am glad to see the Minister of Transportation back. I am sure he was watching on the monitor out there. I made some very positive suggestions for him.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Actually I was on the phone. If you want to repeat all that go ahead.

Mr. Villeneuve: I am sure the minister will read Hansard with a great deal of interest, and very closely, because we do have some very positive suggestions. We have been accused of being negative. I have been trying to be as positive as I can with this budget, which tends to be very, very inflationary.

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In summing up, I feel—and history will bear it out—this one per cent increase in the sales tax in the budget means one-half per cent added on to the annual inflation. I do not think anyone can argue that. Whenever housing in Toronto will cost \$2,000 more, families will be paying \$1,000 or more just in sales tax.

I have not even touched on the personal income tax; many people have. I suggest very strongly to those people who are just finishing up in the last days of having to complete their income tax, to go back to 1984, look at the schedule of provincial tax they had to pay in 1984 and compare it with what they have to pay in 1987 and they will find a tremendous increase. Next year it will be even worse.

I appreciate the opportunity of addressing this rather sad budget and I hope it is not as bad as it tends to be oriented towards.

Mr. Pollock: I want to compliment the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry on a very excellent speech. It was well delivered. He explains things extremely well. I found it very inspiring.

I was a little surprised at his tone, though. He seemed to be quite upset that the Minister of Agriculture and Food got only a 1.9 per cent increase in his budget. As I pointed out, the Minister of Natural Resources got only a one per cent increase in his budget. The Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Minister of Natural Resources must not have a high profile at the table. They do not seem to be able to get the funds they should for their particular ministries.

I was quite surprised that the Minister of Agriculture and Food actually dropped that farm safety and repair program. That was a \$50-million program that was well received by the agricultural community, an extremely popular program, and yet he dropped it. He brought it in last year just before the election and this year he has dropped it. It leaves one with the feeling that he brought in that program more or less to buy votes. Surely that was not the reason, but one would get the impression that this is why that program was introduced and then all of a sudden dropped.

As I say, that was a popular program. A lot of farmers took advantage of it, repaired their machinery and bought safety equipment. I have actually stood in this House and promoted a program to subsidize safety equipment.

Mr. Reycraft: It is always good to listen to the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry talk about agriculture. I know his support of that

is very strong. I am very happy he chose to speak in English because I reached for my translation device and found it was in two pieces.

I enjoyed the comments of the member. However, there was one particular thing that left me somewhat perplexed and that was the way he approached the topic of free trade.

Mr. Ballinger: Only one.

Mr. Reycraft: One in particular.

On the one hand, he talked about free trade creating unprecedented prosperity in this province. I always find that argument a little puzzling, given the fact that here in Ontario we have already got a degree of prosperity that surpasses that of any one of the 50 states I have ever been in. I can never understand how somebody thinks it will lead to greater prosperity here than anybody has been able to achieve in any one of those states.

However, he talked about it creating that prosperity. On the other hand, he referred to the report from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food which projects very large losses for farmers in this province if the free trade agreement, as proposed, is implemented.

Mr. Ballinger: Some \$95 million.

Mr. Reycraft: Yes, to the extent of \$95 million. He criticizes the Treasurer for not responding to that in the budget. If free trade is supposed to lead to all this prosperity, why should there be a need to address its costs in the budget?

The other thing I would like him to respond to in his remarks is the mention he made of the use of ethanol and methanol. I wonder if he could perhaps give us some indication of the financial implications of its use in this province as a substitute for more traditional fuels.

Mr. Mahoney: I did catch most of the honourable gentleman's address on the monitor, but I happened to come back in the House just at an interesting point when the member was citing statistics about what an inflationary budget this is. I believe he said—and maybe he could correct me if I misheard him—that an average family would pay an extra \$1,000 in sales tax. To do that you would have to spend an extra \$100,000, based on a one per cent increase, so maybe he could correct that for me when he gets an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Breagh: Buy a house.

Mr. Mahoney: You do not pay sales tax when you buy the house. The member knows that as well.

The other thing I found interesting, which none of the honourable members from the other side has spoken about when they talk about inflation, is the reduction of the deficit, the lowest deficit in 19 years in this province. When this government took office—I was not part of it in 1985, but I recall it—the planned deficit at that time was \$2.2 billion. We are now talking about \$473 million, the lowest deficit, cash deficit, net cash requirements, in 19 years.

If I might make a brief point about agriculture, I find it amazing that anyone could try to suggest that the agricultural sector is going to benefit from free trade. Just imagine yourself, Madam Speaker, trying to milk a cow at six o'clock in the morning in northern Ontario or Portage la Prairie and compare it to doing that same job in Orlando, Florida, or in South Carolina. That puts it in very simple terms that most simple people could understand. It is a lot more difficult, a lot more costly. Free trade is a devastating tool against the agricultural sector in the entire country of Canada.

Mr. Pollock: You can't prove that.

Mr. Mahoney: The gentleman knows it, but he will not admit it because he is just singing the Tory line.

Mr. Haggerty: I was thinking about the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, who is a member, I guess at times, of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. He knows of some of the discussions and of the witnesses who have appeared before the committee. I suppose I can say he understands, as I do, that the main focus of the Canada free trade deal agreement seems to be based upon economics. That comes through very clearly.

We have had representations where men have talked about the multinational corporations. Do we want Canadian agriculture to follow the American trend of corporate land ownership? I do not have to remind the member that the person who owns the land and can control the production and the produce can also dictate to society the price it will pay at a later date. Do we want the level of economics in the marketplace to dictate what will happen to Canadian agriculture?

Those are the two questions I want to ask him, because we have seen the erosion of the agricultural sector in the Niagara region, particularly in the tender fruit industry. At one time we used to can all of our fruits here in Ontario until the multinational corporations came in and bought up the small canneries. Now we find we have the biggest import of canned fruit and goods

and produce from the United States through the multinational corporations.

I know that his party supports the free trade agreement, but is he not concerned about the agricultural industry in Ontario? Will it be able to survive? We know that subsidies are a question on the free trade deal in the United States, and the question is that the subsidies we may apply to the agricultural sector here may cause problems within that agreement, if it is accepted by the United States House of Representatives and the Senate.

1740

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry for two minutes.

Mr. Villeneuve: I guess I must have woken everybody up in here.

To the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock), yes, I too am very disappointed. When he mentioned that he thinks there may have been some little hint of buying votes, all I can tell him is that this Ontario farm management safety and repair program was fully committed for the \$20 million that it was allocated early in 1987, and the 1988 portion was fully allocated by the end of March 1988, and it has not been renewed. I have to think that possibly the suggestion that he makes that indeed agriculture was given a few crumbs in this is a little bit true.

To the member for Niagara South (Mr. Haggerty): he was with us on a trip to Washington about a month ago. I found it strange when a couple of congressmen got up and said, "What kind of a free trade is this when you protect 95 per cent of your dairy market and your poultry products market?" That is exactly what we were told. We were also told by prominent union leaders: "We do not want this free trade. It creates a very uneven situation. The auto pact is slanted in Canada's favour. We do not want free trade to protect the auto pact. We want to destroy the auto pact." That is not a hidden agenda. That was stated.

There were a number of other questions, but the reason I support the free trade deal is I like to have some input as opposed to being dragged in kicking, as John Turner and the Premier would have happen to us. Dairy production is protected. Our markets are protected in the feather industry and the dairy industry, and I am proud to say that it was done by a federal government that cares and that had input in the free trade agreement.

Mr. Elliot: I am delighted to rise on the first occasion in the House to speak on behalf of a new riding. I believe it is traditional when you

represent a riding such as mine, Halton North, that on that first occasion, you say something about that riding and the wonderful people in it. This gives me particular pleasure, because my people are a reasonable group, and in talking about the budget, which I think is a significant, good document, I can give members a real flavour of what the heartland of Ontario is all about.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Please continue.

Mr. Elliot: With respect to my riding, it is west of Toronto, north of Derry Road, and encompasses all of that part of the Halton region to the boundaries. The significant built-up areas are Acton, Georgetown and Milton, and all of the land mass that is outside of the urban areas belongs to Esquesing and Nassagaweya townships. Through these townships, there are many urban clusters, like Campbellville, Moffat, Brookville, Speyside, Limehouse, Norval and Hornby.

I mention Hornby last because a resident of that particular community was a long-time member of this House and is now a constituent of mine, the Honourable James Snow. He is well known, particularly to the third party here. When the riding of Halton-Burlington, the former riding, was formed, for some reason the Honourable James Snow chose to run in Oakville and was always a nonresident member of that particular community. I am not sure I had the pleasure of running against him twice, but I did do that. I ran against James Snow in 1977 and 1981.

Julian Reed contested the seat when the new riding of Halton-Burlington was formed 12 years ago. I think he was a terrific member of this House for the 10 years that he sat as a member here. He chose not to run in the 1985 election. Don Knight, a Liberal, successfully ran and retained the riding for this party.

It is a new riding in that the Burlington portion of the riding is no longer in my riding of Halton North. Everything in my riding belongs to the town of Milton or the town of Halton Hills.

The number one concern in this area of Ontario is the environment. This is largely due to the fact that 30 per cent of the land mass is on the Niagara Escarpment. There is a lot of farm land in Esquesing township in particular because of the way the rural area of Ontario is designated. To be farm land, you have to be a dairy farmer or a cattle farmer or a hog producer. That particular area of concern I am closely related to, because I was raised in the small community named

Chesley up in Bruce county. I am closely related in philosophy to all the fine people in the rural area in Esquesing.

The other half of the riding I consider to be rural and farm community too, but the horse industry is not considered to be part of Agriculture and Food at the present time. The largest industry in my riding is the Mohawk Raceway and the attendant horse population out in Nassagaweya township now.

There are only about five or six of the other type of farms in all of Nassagaweya. Most of Nassagaweya now is housed by people with a paddock. A lot of them are restricted to six horses, but there are thoroughbreds and standard-breds because of the proximity for the standard-breds to the Mohawk Raceway.

There were some comments when I first rose, about talking about the budget to my community. I actually did that last night to 250 members, mostly of the rural community.

I am not sure how it was received by that community, because they have not all talked to me personally as yet. But I think they are a realistic group and after they have read the complete document and looked at the detail of it—in the agricultural area, for example, when I meet with the group there on a continuous basis, they are aware that we have increased the agricultural budget for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food by 86 per cent over two and a half years. They have had an opportunity to look at that area. They do not think that is too bad. We have not really lost anything and we are doing fine, thank you.

The third industry I would like to comment on in my area, because this is why the environment becomes the number one concern in the area, is that we have several very large quarries. The quarrying operation in Halton North is the third largest in the province. There are 11 million tons of aggregate quarried annually in that area, which is very significant. I think the most quarried in any other municipality is 15 million, so it is a lot.

There is an attendant truck industry associated with that business and that is another very viable and important industry in our area, as is the quarry business. The problems associated with having such a large industry in an environmentally sensitive area like the Niagara Escarpment, though, has to do a lot of the time with the truck traffic, the infringement on what is classified as agricultural land, on a percentage basis. The other thing that is the main concern in Halton North, and I am happy to see that the Minister of

Transportation is in the House today, is the roads, particularly those leading into the quarries.

Mr. Laughren: He says he's not listening to you.

Mr. Elliot: Oh, yes he is.

We just came through an election back in September. I came here and I think I am reflecting accurately the expectations of our community. They consistently told me they wanted continued quality health care, in our hospitals, in our clinics and the other facilities in that area. They also want quality education. They want quality care for the increasing number of seniors in our population. They want improvements in our roads.

More important than all this, though, in our particular area, because one thing that impacts on us a lot is the fact that Highway 401 runs right through the riding, we are developing in an ordered fashion and we want that to continue because the growth associated with that ordered development is really very important to us.

1750

The reason the environment ties into that ordered development is because of waste management. We need a lot of water. We need attendant sewers for the capacity of houses, industry and business that we hope to build there, and the most continuous, long-range environmental problem in our area has been acquiring and deciding on our next landfill site.

The other thing I think I have time to talk about today has to do with my satisfaction in having some input in the kind of budget that was delivered a week or so ago. I would like to serve notice here that because some of us are quiet and thoughtful and do not really stand up and say much unless we really have something to say, it does not mean we are ineffective as backbenchers in this government.

What we require in Halton North is sufficient operating capital to maintain the level of service that the people have become accustomed to. What we need are longer projections regarding the capital expenditures with respect to health care delivery, educational delivery and the other things that I enumerated a moment ago. For six months now, on a lot of occasions, I have had the opportunity to designate that to the Treasurer who delivered the budget a short time ago.

The attendant thing with this that ties me up a bit in that kind of delivery of service is the demand by almost everybody in my riding that we balance the budget, an idea that I subscribe to fully and an idea that later on I will talk about in a

little more detail. But I think we have done a pretty good job on that. The main concern here is that the accumulated deficit should not be increased any more.

The third thing is that because I have a particularly knowledgeable and intelligent constituency, the people there have actually read the Premier's Council report, and in order to go at trade on a global basis, which is what we have to do in the long haul, they realize that there has to be a lot of research and development money put into Ontario in the very near future, including this year, so that down the road our people are trained for the competition that is necessary on a global scale.

We could, in this last regard, worry unduly about the United States. We all know that we are overly dependent upon the United States as a trading partner, but the kind of manufacturing investment incentive that was in the budget in a growing area like my own, where small industries are settling in along the 401 so that they are adjacent to the major market in Ontario, namely, Metropolitan Toronto—that additional 15 per cent deduction of the cost of new machinery and equipment is going to cost us \$120 million. It does not take an astute mathematician to realize that the return of \$6 billion on that investment in Ontario annually makes that a terrific investment. That is the kind of funding we should be arguing for as a complete group of people on a continuous basis, and we need a lot more money in that area.

The additional \$45 million for research and development really does not affect me much in my riding, as far as the 25 per cent that is geared towards large firms goes; but the 35 per cent that is geared to the smaller firms, again, is dynamite as far as my riding is concerned, particularly when, if they get a three-year plan in place, there is an additional 50 per cent in the superfund that is available for that on an incremental basis.

A number of people who are already in the high-technology type of supply industry in my riding have commented to me that they have to persistently retrain their personnel. The \$38 million that has been set aside to do that job is another indication of the commitment towards the Premier's Council report.

One thing of particular interest to me and a fund that I hope is addressed with more money in future years is the \$25-million procurement program. The government of Ontario has to be the largest buyer of goods and equipment in the province. This \$25 million of research and development money is geared towards develop-

ing items that can be used specifically in that area.

The next item I would like to talk about is really the second item in the three priorities that I talked about that are of concern to me. It has to do with sufficient operating capital on a year-by-year basis. It also has to do with having a game plan that looks down the road three to five years with respect to capital allocation.

With respect to health care, which may be the only one I am able to address today, I make no excuse as I talk to the people in my riding that we have increased the expenditure there to \$1.2 billion. We have to deliver a quality level of health care, and those people who are present today who are in my age bracket know exactly why. My parents and my wife's parents are over 80 years of age. There is a significant amount of money involved in satisfying the health needs of that segment of the population.

Within the past three weeks my dad, who is 85 years old, had to have a hernia operation in the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital. I might say we had nothing but high-quality health care with respect to him. He is back at home now being looked after because of the one-stop home care type of program that is slowly being enforced over the province on a voluntary basis, jurisdiction by jurisdiction.

It is not an easy situation for my mother, who is in the same age bracket—but I am not going to say how old she is, because she would shoot me if I did—or my older brother who lives at home. When you have somebody who has been incapacitated and in bed for five and a half years, going on six years, and you get that kind of support, you very willingly pay the cost that is associated with that quality health care. I think that is the type of thing we are talking about in this budget.

I think because of the closeness of the hour to six o'clock, I should move adjournment, if that is appropriate today. I understand there will be a fair break before I get to give the other half of what I have to say some time next week, by the orders that were presented today. I look forward to talking again on this matter.

On motion by Mr. Elliot, the debate was adjourned.

ROYAL ASSENT

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): I beg to inform the House that in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to assent to a certain bill in his chambers.

Clerk of the House: The following is the title of the bill to which His Honour has assented:

Bill 115, An Act to provide for Construction Work in connection with the Toronto Economic Summit.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: It being Thursday evening, pursuant to standing order 13 and for the particular benefit of the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, May 2, we will consider the nonconfidence motion standing in the name of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae).

On Tuesday, May 3, we will deal with second reading of Bill 109, the Ottawa-Carleton French-language School Board Act, followed by, if time permits, second reading of Bill 106, the Municipal Elections Statute Law Amendment Act.

On Wednesday, May 4, and Thursday, May 5, in the afternoon, we will continue with any business not completed on Tuesday, followed by a continuation of the budget debate. On Thursday morning, we will consider private members' ballot items standing in the names of the member for St. Catharines-Brock (Mr. Dietsch) and the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 55

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Monday, May 2, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 2, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Speaker: I would like to ask all members to join me in welcoming the next group of legislative pages to serve in the First Session of the 34th Parliament. They are:

Salma Bhaloo, Don Mills; Rebecca Brettingham, Burlington South; Tasha Brooks, Brant-Haldimand; Manuel Dignard, Prescott and Russell; Jeff Donovan, Fort William; Greg English, Hastings-Peterborough; Heather Evans, Waterloo North; Natalie Eves, Parry Sound; Sean Follis, Rainy River; Ian Haines, Kenora; Aron Halpern, Simcoe West; Mark Hanson, Etobicoke-Lakeshore; Martha Harrison, Guelph; Rebecca Hill, Perth;

Larry MacDowell, St. Andrew-St. Patrick; Candace Maybin, Quinte; Daniel Mennill, London South; Scott Montague, Durham East; Dawn Morrisette, Algoma-Manitoulin; Pauline Rosenbaum, Hamilton West; Sunita Shah, Cornwall; Greg Splan, Grey; Mark Thompson, Carleton; and Allison Young, Peterborough.

Please join me in welcoming this group of pages.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AWARD PROGRAMS

Ms. Bryden: In Ontario, a great variety of recognition awards is given by the government to citizens who have made significant contributions to our province in a volunteer capacity.

As we all know, the costs of the award ceremonies and administration are all borne by the taxpayers of this province, but the awards have become a prerogative of the government in power. There is no legislation governing the awards, and the costs of each award are often not easily identified in the estimates. The opposition is seldom invited to make any of the presentations.

Since these are really provincial awards, I am suggesting we bring all award programs under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Assembly. The assembly should be given the power to review all existing award programs and to consider new

ones. It should also establish criteria for eligibility, set up selection processes and plan award ceremonies with the assistance of assembly staff.

The supervision of the award programs should be delegated to a legislative committee with equal representation from each party. The program could then be truly called provincial awards honouring outstanding citizens.

RETAIL SALES TAX

Mr. Harris: History is being made today with the imposition of an eight per cent retail sales tax on the people of Ontario by the Peterson Liberals.

I rise and join with all consumers in condemning this bad, errant, vile, base, evil, gross, mean, wretched, grotty, measly, low, awful, worthless, shoddy, tacky, crummy, ropy, punk, pathetic, useless, faulty, flawed, mangled, bungled, scruffy, filthy, dirty, foul, fetid, rank, unsound, tainted, rotten, peccant, infected, poison, septic, diseased, depraved, vicious, villainous, wicked, heinous, shabby, unjust, scandalous, disgraceful, onerous, burdensome, annoying, hurtful, injurious, damaging, detrimental, wasting, consuming, destructive, pernicious, costly, disastrous, noxious, malignant, unhealthy, poisonous, dangerous, ominous, dire, puckish, impish, bloodthirsty, cruel, outrageous, harsh, intolerant, persecuting, monstrous, obnoxious, nasty, beastly, horrid, terrible, gruesome, grim, ghastly, awful, dreadful, putrid, stinking, sickening, revolting, vulgar, sordid, indecent, improper, shocking, reprehensible, horrendous, miserable, damnable, regressive, oppressive and unwarranted snake-in-the-grass molestation of the taxpaying public.

I intend to oppose this tax hike.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know if it is in order to read the dictionary or not.

ROBOTS IN INDUSTRY

Mr. Tatham: Food for thought: Paul Christopher, writing in the Japanese Mind, talks about Toshio Iguchi, who makes plastic parts for toy watches for children. He used to employ four workers. They left his employment for more money, so Toshio now runs a one-man band with robots. He leased these robots from Japan Robot

Lease. He could not afford to buy then for \$45,000 each, but could lease one for as little as \$750 per month. What is more, it gave him the assurance that he could freely trade his robots in for new and improved models as they come along. It is something to think about.

REGIONAL JUDICIAL CENTRES

Mr. Hampton: The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) recently received the report of the Zuber study on the courts of justice. One of the primary goals of the Zuber report was to bring justice and the courts closer to the people of Ontario. Following from this goal, the report recommended the creation of a number of regional judicial centres throughout Ontario. It has become apparent to residents of northern Ontario that there will be only one judicial centre for all of the community spread across northern Ontario. That judicial centre is to be located in Sudbury.

One wonders, when looking at this proposal, what the Attorney General's ministry could be thinking of. Has anyone in the Attorney General's office ever tried to travel, say, from Kenora to Sudbury? Have they experienced the fact that they have to change planes at least three and sometimes four times, or take a plane, then a bus, then a plane and then a bus? Have they ever thought about the difficulty of trying to move judges out of Sudbury into communities such as Dryden, Red Lake, Timmins, New Liskeard, Longlac, Marathon or Terrace Bay? The task would be almost impossible. Most of a judge's time would be taken up in travel. Surely the Attorney General can do something better.

1340

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Mr. Jackson: Ontario's rape crisis centres, like Ontario's taxpayers, are in the red. Of the 20 sexual assault centres across the province, one has closed, two may close by the end of May and all are threatened because the government will not staff these centres.

The Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) has responded to this problem by saying, "The government cannot give out money to everything that is a deserving cause." After the single largest tax grab in Ontario's history, Old Mother Hubbard is telling the victims of violent sexual assault and rape in Ontario that the cupboard is bare.

Let us look at some of the other deserving causes that the government has chosen to fund. The minister will spend \$600,000 on an advertising blitz to heighten the awareness of the

problems of sexual assault in Ontario but not a dime to spare to provide a stable staffing formula for the counselling of rape victims.

In Kingston, the Solicitor General will spend nothing for staffing the centre to counsel the victims of violent sexual assault while her colleague the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay) will spend \$85,000 on their perpetrators.

This government has enough money. The minister has overseen many examples of mismanagement and abuse of taxpayers' dollars.

Then, on Thursday last, the Liberals held a party on the fourth floor of the Legislature, where government property was damaged by a flying beer bottle.

This is an insatiable government excess, pure and simple. The real reason the Solicitor General cannot fund these deserving causes, I submit, is that she cannot manage her own \$427-million budget.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr. Ballinger: Recently my Queen's Park office received an article written by a constituent of mine, Wayne Newton, editor of the Uxbridge Times Journal, concerning biodegradable garbage bags.

The article states that corn farmers and our environment stand to benefit tremendously from a new technology brought to Canada by the St. Lawrence Starch Co., which is a very large operation in Uxbridge in my riding of Durham-York. This new technology is called Ecostar and is manufactured from corn. When added to polyethylene, it makes plastic garbage bags biodegradable.

Traditional garbage bags take up to 200 years to break down, or could last for ever. Because of this failure to break down, the garbage inside the bags does not decompose naturally, and consequently this contributes to the landfill problems we are currently experiencing throughout Ontario.

Durham region, recognizing the importance of this new technology, has recently adopted a policy whereby all its departments must use only these biodegradable garbage bags. It is the first municipality in Ontario to show the kind of leadership that it is going to take to help reduce Ontario's landfill problems, and I personally want to salute Durham's foresight.

When these new bags are left in soil or exposed to water, they disappear after about five years and are comparable in price to a leading premium brand. These bags also should be available

shortly throughout Ontario in major retail outlets.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK IN CANADA

Mr. Reville: Today is the start of Mental Health Week in Canada, and I think it behooves us here in Ontario to pause and reflect that the group which provides the most community mental health services is not a community agency, it is not the Ministry of Health: It is a group of private sector providers who go variously under the name of Mister Donut, Tim Horton Donuts and Joe's Donuts.

For those members who are looking blank—and I assume that is not their customary posture—I would point out that the dearth of community mental health programming continues to be so bad in this city and in this province that many discharged psychiatric patients spend up to 24 hours a day in doughnut stores, where at least they have a warm place to be and something to eat for not very much money.

I think in this national Mental Health Week this House must resolve to do much better.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I respectfully ask for the unanimous consent of the House to say a few words about the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's centennial.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD CENTENNIAL

Hon. Mr. Riddell: As my honourable colleagues will know, this year marks the centennial of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. I am proud to inform the House that 100 years ago, on May 1, 1888, the first separate department of government responsible for Ontario agriculture was formed. As we celebrate this milestone, I invite the people of Ontario to join us as we pay tribute to the men and women of this province, past and present, who have contributed to 100 years of agricultural achievement.

The agricultural industry of today remains a cornerstone of our economy, a foundation laid by the contributions of many determined and devoted Ontarians. Among these noted individuals are those who have served the people and the government of Ontario in the capacity of minister of agriculture and deputy minister of agriculture.

In commemorating this special day, we are indeed fortunate to have with us three former ministers of agriculture and deputy ministers in our presence. I ask my honourable colleagues in the House to acknowledge William A. Stewart,

minister from 1961 to 1975; Lorne Henderson, minister from 1979 to 1982; and Dennis Timbrell, minister from 1982 to 1985. Our former deputy ministers in attendance are Everett Biggs, who served from 1961 to 1972; Gordon Bennett, deputy minister from 1975 to 1978; Ken Lantz, deputy minister from 1978 to 1981; and Duncan Allan, deputy minister from 1981 to 1983.

The work of these gentlemen for the good of the agricultural industry of Ontario is part of the legacy of the ministry which I am proud to serve, a legacy that began a century ago. On May 1, 1888, the first Minister of Agriculture was sworn in. Charles Drury, a farmer whose family began tilling the soil of Simcoe county shortly after 1819, was selected by Premier Oliver Mowat to head the first separate department of government responsible for agriculture. Charles Drury served as minister until 1890, but the Drury name was to be associated with the Ontario government once again when his son, Ernest C. Drury, served as Premier of Ontario from 1919 until 1923. With us today is Harold Drury, grandson of the first minister. He continued the Drury family tradition by farming the same land his grandfather did more than a century ago.

It is this kind of tradition and service to the agricultural community of Ontario that we are celebrating. We at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food felt it fitting and appropriate that this government acknowledge the significant contributions made to agriculture by members of the Ontario agricultural community during their careers.

During this centennial year, 100 special Centennial Awards will be presented to individuals and families representing farming, research, veterinary medicine and food processing in all areas of the province. The 100 recipients were chosen from more than 400 nominations by a panel consisting of former Deputy Minister of Agriculture Ken Lantz, a food industry representative, Murray Stewart of Canada Packers Inc., and the founder of Women for the Survival of Agriculture, Dianne Harkin.

I wish to table the 100 names of these citizens of Ontario who have made our Ontario agriculture and food sector one of the finest in the world and who have given us cause to celebrate 100 years of agricultural achievement and excellence.

1350

Mr. Wildman: On behalf of our party, I would like to join in congratulating the Ministry of Agriculture and Food on its 100th anniversary and also to say congratulations to the minister

and to congratulate him also on his sartorial splendour today.

During the little ceremony we had, re-enacting the appointment of the first minister earlier today, the gentleman who was acting the part of the first minister, Mr. Drury, stated that "any person who had a good voice, a good set of teeth and a good head of hair would make it in politics." All of us know that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) has a good voice. Not too many of us, perhaps, have checked his teeth lately, but he has a long way to go with regard to the good head of hair.

I would also like to join with the minister in welcoming the former ministers and deputy ministers today and the members of the Drury family. It was very interesting to hear Harold Drury explain the history of his family and its relationship to the agricultural community and state that his grandfather would have been very appreciative of the changes that have been made in agriculture and of the contribution made by the ministry to those changes over the last 100 years. But it was also interesting to hear Mr. Drury state that his grandfather probably would have been distressed at the amount of prime farm land that has gone into highways and buildings in southern Ontario.

It seems to me that the best tribute this government could make to 100 years of agriculture and to the anniversary of the ministry in this province would be to make a commitment to food land preservation in Ontario. If we could all agree to stop stalling and to establish food land preservation policies under the Planning Act, with deadlines for municipalities to include in their official plans, then we really would be paying tribute to Mr. Drury and to the men and women who have worked for 100 years in agriculture and in the ministry since the establishment of the department in 1888.

Mr. Villeneuve: On behalf of my party and my caucus, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to join with my colleagues to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the office of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I also want to add my congratulations to the 100 recipients of the OMAF Centennial Awards.

Agriculture in Ontario has come a long way since the pioneer days of subsistence farming, which started to change a century ago into our present system of diversified agriculture. Helping agriculture on that way have been a succession of able and dedicated ministers. While the ministry itself can trace its roots back to the Bureau of Agriculture and Arts and the

Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works established in 1868, the office of minister is 20 years younger than that.

The first minister, Charles Drury, represented the riding which is now very ably represented by my colleague the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean), who is our party's deputy critic for agriculture, among many other chores that he does within this caucus. Charles Drury's son, E. C. Drury, served as Premier from 1919 to 1923, and his grandson, Robert Drury, is currently reeve of Oro township.

But I do wish to pay tribute to some more recent ministers who have contributed to the strength of agriculture here in Ontario. In recent history, Bill Stewart, as mentioned by the minister, has become, as they say, a legend in his own time. As minister over a span of some 14 years, he can certainly list many accomplishments. The creation of an orderly marketing system for milk, as the result of the 1965 milk industry inquiry, has led to industry stability and substantial improvements to quality. Some of us will remember that, at the time, there was a very vigorous debate over Bill Stewart's legislation, but the last 20 years have proved it to be of benefit to producers and the full approval of Bill Stewart's hard work. Congratulations and thanks, Bill.

Before Bill Stewart, we should all remember Tom Kennedy, minister for some 10 years, from 1943 to 1953, for whom 801 Bay Street has been dedicated. More recently, we have had Bill Newman and Lorne Henderson, who presided over much more difficult economic times for the agricultural industry.

I want to pay particular tribute to the Minister of Agriculture and Food from 1982 to 1985, my friend Dennis Timbrell. This former colleague of ours was instrumental in developing a more modern and higher profile for agriculture. He was also the key figure behind the idea of a national tripartite stabilization plan. Under his leadership Ontario successfully made the argument for national programs to move away from balkanization of support programs and the wars of provincial treasuries.

Agriculture in this country is, of course, a joint federal-provincial responsibility. As a result, farmers have benefited from two sources of government support but have suffered from competing provincial programs instead of from complementary ones. Today, for example, an Ontario beef producer gets \$6 of support for every \$100 in cash receipts, as compared to over \$45 for every \$100 from our colleagues in the

province of Quebec. It is this sort of inequity that the current minister and his two predecessors, Phil Andrewes and Ross Stevenson, have had to deal with.

Although today we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the swearing in of the first minister, I also want to mention one other person who for eight years filled the job of parliamentary assistant to the ministers of Agriculture and Food of the day, from 1977 to 1985. I refer, of course, to our former colleague and good friend from the riding of Elgin, Ron McNeil. He was tireless in his role as a liaison person between farmers and the ministry. His opinions were frequently sought and given. His contributions must not be overlooked.

In my own involvement with Ontario agriculture, I go back almost 40 years, believe it or not. I joined the Sandringham Calf Club at the age of 12. There we were taught not only how to properly feed and prepare animals for the show ring, but also how to get along with our peers and friends, how to properly operate public meetings and the process to follow when one is judging livestock, along with the giving of reasons for that conclusion.

This and many other very significant exercises were not only learned but remembered by many of us who attended 4-H. My personal experience with the Ontario Junior Farmers has also played a very important part in my own personal life, having been a member for many years of the junior farmers and having been privileged to attend the Ontario Junior Farmers' leadership training camp in the late 1950s at Lake Couchiching. This was a great learning experience, for all who attended had the opportunity of meeting people from across the length and breadth of this province.

If I can offer any advice to future ministers for the next 100 years, it would be the following: that the minister of the day never forget that he or she is the producers' representative at the cabinet table, that he or she always act in the interest of agriculture and that he or she not let partisan politics interfere with the development of a sound agricultural policy. By doing so, they will serve not only the interests of agriculture but the interests of all the residents of Ontario.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ONTARIO GUARANTEED INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES

CERTIFICATS DE PLACEMENT GARANTIS DE L'ONTARIO

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: Today the Province of Ontario Savings Office will begin issuing

Ontario guaranteed investment certificates. This initiative was announced in the recent budget by my colleague the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon).

The savings office will offer GICs at rates competitive with other major Ontario financial institutions. Terms are for 12 to 60 months with the option to select any maturity date. Purchasers will also have a choice of denominations from \$500 to \$100,000. As with all other POSO deposits, every dollar will be fully guaranteed by the province of Ontario.

Les caisses d'épargne de l'Ontario offriront, à partir d'aujourd'hui, des certificats de placement garantis à des taux aussi avantageux que les taux proposés par toutes les institutions financières les plus importantes de la province. Les conditions concernant la durée de placement seront de douze à 60 mois, avec la faculté de choisir la date d'échéance. Nos clients auront le choix d'acheter des certificats d'une valeur allant de 500 \$ à 100 000 \$.

I am confident that the new Ontario guaranteed investment certificates will be successful and will further enhance the savings office's long and rich tradition of dependability and customer service.

1400

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I wish to report to honourable members on the status of the collective-bargaining dispute involving All-Way Transportation Corp. in Metropolitan Toronto and Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

As honourable members know, All-Way provides an important daily Wheel-Trans transportation service to disabled people. There are over 15,000 disabled men, women and children who are registered users of the service. On a typical day, Wheel-Trans carries over 1,000 disabled people to and from their destinations within Metropolitan Toronto.

One hundred and seventy-five drivers and maintenance employees represented by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 113 have been in a legal strike position since April 16. They have been on a work-to-rule campaign, which has involved a slow-down in service.

Wheel-Trans service is presently provided by All-Way, but the Toronto Transit Commission is scheduled to assume responsibility for provision of the services in 1989. This is the last agreement, therefore, to be negotiated with All-Way. Because the TTC is taking over the service, and because of the nature of the issues in

dispute, negotiations have included the TTC as well as All-Way, the current employer.

The ministry has provided intensive mediation services throughout the negotiation process. An all-night session was held on Saturday in an effort to avoid the strike. The parties were unable at that time to reach a collective agreement, however, and a strike commenced early this morning.

The employer has agreed to provide emergency transportation to those who require it. In addition, the Ministry of Community and Social Services has mounted an emergency assistance plan for its own disabled clients who have not been able to make alternative arrangements and who need rides for essential reasons. That ministry is also providing information to any disabled inquirer who may be experiencing difficulty because of the strike. In the meantime, I expect the full co-operation of union and management in the provision of emergency services as required.

I am keenly aware of the impact a prolonged strike will have on disabled people. Accordingly, I am happy to report that the parties will reconvene and mediation will recommence at 3 p.m. this afternoon, and it is my expectation that more determined efforts will be made to settle this important dispute.

In that regard, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Mrs. Beryl Potter, the president of Action Awareness, who has met with me on two occasions, most recently this morning, to present to me the concerns of the Scarborough Advocacy Centre for Disabled Persons and Their Families relating to this current work stoppage.

RESPONSES

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. B. Rae: In responding to the statement by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara), I want to say on behalf of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party that we hope very much that the mediation session this afternoon will be a successful one and the negotiations will produce a collective agreement. There are few issues that are more difficult for all of us than ones which involve very much competing rights and competing goods. We very much want to see disabled people have access to transportation and want very much to do whatever we can to make sure that people do have access to transportation and that they are not discriminated against in any way because of lack of access to a service because of a labour dispute.

At the same time, when one looks at some of the issues that have been raised in this dispute, they are most troubling. We know, for example, that the difference between the wages paid to drivers who work for Wheel-Trans and who are responsible for transporting people who are disabled are as much as \$4 per hour lower than the rate currently being paid to TTC drivers. At the same time, we know the TTC itself is going to be absorbing this service and taking it over in a year's time. We also have many other issues involving the use of part-time workers and involving the job security of those people who are now working for All-Way Transportation and whose jobs may be affected by the transfer to the TTC.

We have had precedents in this House, when GO Transit was changed in terms of its relationship from Gray Coach to the TTC. I want to say to the minister that, in our view, the provincial government has a real responsibility. The provincial government, after all, is partially responsible for funding the TTC and is partially responsible for assistance to Metropolitan Toronto in terms of its current funding arrangements with All-Way Transportation.

We look forward very much to a negotiated settlement, but one that recognizes the value of the work that is done on behalf of disabled people by transportation drivers. It would be curious indeed if, at a time when we are attempting to state very clearly and categorically that disabled people must be included as part of our society and have the same rights, we were then to turn around and say to those who drive disabled people, as opposed to those who drive for the regular TTC, that they will be paid 65 per cent, 70 per cent, 75 per cent as much as those who are working for the TTC.

This is an issue that has to be resolved. The job-security question has to be resolved. I hope very much that the minister has the support of other colleagues in cabinet and that they realize that in order to reach a just settlement, it is going to require real leadership from the provincial government with regard to this question.

ONTARIO GUARANTEED INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES

Ms. Bryden: With regard to the statement by the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaitre) about guaranteed investment certificates being offered through the Province of Ontario Savings Office, it is ironic that this mini-step towards increasing the services of the POSO branches does not go as far as the original legislation

setting up the branches, which the father of the provincial Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), Mr. Nixon, introduced during the last progressive government this province ever had, namely the United Farmers-Labour government in the early 1920s.

That legislation allowed loans to be made through the branches, as well as other services that were competitive to the big financial institutions of this country. The Conservatives took away the power to provide those loans, so we still do not offer loans, which the province of Alberta does. That would have been a much more welcome gesture, particularly for all those people who are now paying \$900 million more in sales taxes. They will not be looking for GICs; they will have nothing left to save. They will be looking for loans and assistance to carry themselves during this billion-dollar tax gouge that we hope will be reversed as soon as we debate the budget.

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mrs. Marland: I must say that this statement by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) demonstrates in bold fact that you cannot tell a book by its cover, because the leading cover page got me quite interested almost to the point of excitement, I would say, by suggesting that this was going to be a statement concerning a labour dispute. In fact, it is hardly a statement concerning the labour dispute; all it is is a status report on the fact that this government has not done anything.

The fact that it has not done anything speaks for itself. I, too, take the opportunity to welcome Mrs. Potter, because she is one of the strong voices on behalf of the disabled community in Metro. Unfortunately, she is a voice on her own. She does not seem to have anyone in the government joining her in expressing concern for the disabled community.

We have heard an awful lot in the last two weeks about concern in this part of Ontario and across the province as a whole for a construction site because of the risk that it might upset an economic summit. I would like to know when this government is going to show concern about real impacts on real people. We are not talking about the luxury of whether the SkyDome is completed on time. We are talking about the survival of human beings and these people who require special transportation.

1410

I may at this point just tell you, Mr. Speaker, that on Thursday when I asked the question about whether the limousines that were being used for

other purposes by the cabinet members and their staffs might be used for the disabled, should that emergency arise, some very brave soul sent me an anonymous note suggesting that perhaps I might know that disabled people cannot get into normal vehicles.

In fact, there is a whole group of disabled people who can get into normal vehicles because they can put their wheelchair in the trunk. The fact is that they cannot get on to regular transportation systems because there is no accommodation for their wheelchair. I suggest again that if someone other than the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) would like to loan his vehicle, we certainly can make very good use of it for these disabled people who with a little assistance can get into a normal vehicle.

More important is the fact that these are real people who have to get out to shop; they have to get out to work. Some of them have mortgages; most of them will have rent. Every one of them has financial obligations. This government does not seem to care about the financial obligations and the livelihoods of these disabled people. We are talking about people getting to work. We are not only talking about people who require hospital treatment and medical aid.

I think this is enough talk. It is time that this government recognized that although these people proportionately are small in number, they need the government's help. They do not need talk and, most of all, they do not need a status report because they know what is going on.

ONTARIO GUARANTEED INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES

Mr. Harris: In regard to the statement by the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître), I would like to draw to the minister's attention the sermon that was delivered by the Reverend Dr. J. Charles Hay. He is principal emeritus of Knox College in Toronto. Dr. Hay delivered this sermon at the special divine service preceding the opening of Her Majesty's courts in Ontario at the Cathedral Church of St. James, Toronto, on January 7, 1988.

He said: "You can be sure that on the Judgement Day everyone will have to give account of every useless word he has ever spoken. Your words will be used to judge you—to declare you either innocent or guilty."

With reference now to my response to the statement, I am going to heed the Reverend Hay's advice and sit down.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I would like to inform all members that we have a visitor in the Speaker's

gallery today. I ask you to join me in recognizing the Secretary of State for the state of California, Dr. March Fong Eu. Please join me in welcoming the Secretary of State.

I may seem a little nervous today but I feel as if I am under the eyes of a former Speaker. Jack Stokes is visiting us, the former Speaker and former member for Lake Nipigon.

The member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) on a point of personal explanation.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER FOR WELLAND-THOROLD

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker and members, last Thursday a local reporter in Welland asked me if I was going to be running in the next provincial election. I gave him exactly the same answer I had given on September 10, that given my age, I did not expect that I would be.

However, given the news stories that have built on that and left some false impressions, I want to make a statement in this House today, a statement which in any event I would have been making within the next few days. It is that I will be resigning as the MPP for Welland-Thorold, effective June 30 of this year. It is one of the hardest statements I have had to make, and this exceedingly difficult decision has been prompted by some health problems which I have been experiencing now for several months.

I hasten to say that those health problems are not imminently life-threatening nor are they likely to make me more than moderately inactive. In fact, there are many other people functioning quite well with the same conditions. I am advised, though, to slow down, to shorten my hours and to avoid stress. Quite frankly, I do not know how to do all that as a member and still conscientiously discharge my responsibilities in this House and to my constituents. Perhaps because I work less efficiently than many in this House, I am unable to get everything done that I should be doing, even in 16-hour days. Besides, I will be 69 before June 30, and therefore 72 before the probable date of the next election. My condition means that time may run out on me a little sooner than it otherwise would have.

I have a wife and two children and their spouses and four grandchildren whom I love very much. With my condition, I think the time has come that I should not wait any longer to spend more time with them. Further, I want to do some travelling and, as some members in this House know, spend a bit more time at the stock car races.

I say to my colleagues in this House and to the media, do not look for any hidden reasons for my resignation. There are not any. I am not angry at anyone or unhappy with anything; I am proud to serve under the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae) as my leader. I consider him to be one of the finest leaders and one of the most decent human beings I have had the pleasure to know. I admire my caucus colleagues collectively and individually. I am as enthusiastic about the New Democratic Party as I have ever been. It will come to power, both in this province and nationally, and it will provide the best government this province and this nation has ever had, including public auto insurance.

I want to tell the members too that I am not unhappy with the parliamentary process. In spite of what sometimes appears to be raucous and inefficient decision-making, it really does discharge the democratic exercise of power very well. I want to say too, I have nothing but respect and warm feelings towards almost every member of this Legislature with whom I have sat, either now or in the past. I want to say that I am proud of all members.

There are three other things I want to say before I conclude. I want to reiterate that what I have said are the reasons for my resigning are solely the reasons. I want to express my respect for the newspeople here at Queen's Park and elsewhere. They are not just the main assurance for full and accurate public knowledge of what government and politicians are doing, they are the only assurance of that kind of knowledge, and I commend them for their incisive reporting.

Second, I am asking the Premier (Mr. Peterson), through you, Mr. Speaker, to call a by-election very quickly after my retirement so that the people of Welland-Thorold will not be without representation in this Legislature for any lengthy period of time. It is really for this reason that I am giving as long an advance notice of my resignation as I am.

Finally, I want to convey my deep appreciation to the citizens of the city of Welland and the town of Thorold for giving my their unwavering and warm support and providing me with 13 wonderful years as their member of the Legislative Assembly. It has been an immensely rewarding experience. I thank all members here in this House for their part in making that so.

1420

Hon. Mr. Bradley: For those of us who sit on the government benches, and I guess most particularly for those of us who sit as members

from the Niagara Peninsula, this is a day which we very much regret.

We have our partisan differences in this House, but I think anyone who is at all aware of the kind of contribution that the member for Welland-Thorold has made not only to his constituents in the cities of Welland and Thorold, not only to the people of the Niagara region but also to the people of this province, would recognize that, for all of those people, this is a day which we very much regret, although in politics we know it is a day that eventually comes to all of us.

Mel Swart—and I will take the liberty this afternoon, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, to refer to him in a personal way rather than in the parliamentary way as the member for Welland-Thorold—has been known as a man of the people throughout this province and beyond our borders.

He is an outstanding constituency individual. In the 16-hour days that are common for him—and that is speaking not only of the five days of the week but also of the numerous hours he puts in on the weekend—he has rendered outstanding service to the people of his constituency. No problem has been too small over the years for Mel Swart to take on and no cause too unimportant to champion.

He has also, of course, as those of us in this House know, made an outstanding contribution in the House and in committees. Those of us who are ministers on this side know that he keeps us on our toes at all times, particularly those for whom he has been the critic. When I served in opposition side by side with him—I as a member of the Liberal Party, Mel as a member of the New Democratic Party—many of the causes we championed as members of the opposition were similar, but Mel could always do it better. He could always gather the kind of public attention that was necessary to motivate governments to move more quickly than they might otherwise do.

In addition to this, there is a third aspect of a person's job as an MPP—and I should, in deference to the member say "as an MLA," because he always insisted that he was a member of the Legislative Assembly, and that is appropriate—and that is the ceremonial duties. In addition to the hard work he put in on behalf of his constituents, in addition to the research he did and the delivery in committee, in the House, in press conferences and around the province, he also carried out his ceremonial duties in an

appropriate fashion, and for that, I think, the people of this province can be most thankful.

In his riding he received the support of all people. Even when there was a political avalanche coming, whether it was the Progressive Conservative government being re-elected or, in the last election, a Liberal government being elected with a huge majority, in this specific instance Mel Swart, because of his personal integrity, because of his sincerity, because of his outstanding record in the field of political representation, was a person who could always withstand that avalanche, and it was certainly understandable to those of us who reside in the peninsula.

A lot of people may not be aware that the member for Welland-Thorold tried eight times, I believe it was, running provincially and federally, before he was elected. For those of us who have gone through that similar trial and not been elected on a first occasion, we can all take heart from his perseverance. Ultimately, the people who elected him municipally understood that he could represent them exceedingly well on a provincial basis. Mel, your persistence certainly paid off and your re-elections have been with a higher degree of support each time.

I guess it would be inappropriate if I did not mention that Mel was probably Ontario's premier comparison shopper. He made Buffalo toilet paper famous in Ontario as he went over to comparison shop.

There is something people do not know. Sometimes outside, people think we are all enemies in this House. On Friday afternoons, Mel and I would sometimes take turns driving home. I always had to look in the back seat to see what Mel was bringing. He usually had a shopping basket of a variety of items with him. It was not for the purpose of utilizing them at home, of course. It was for the purpose of speaking engagements, drawing to the attention of the authorities in the province the need for good consumer protection and keeping those in the private sector on their toes at the same time.

When we are in politics, we make a lot of friends, and Mel Swart has made a lot of friends. It is also important, if you are going to be effective in the political realm, to make the right enemies and, in his career, Mel Swart made all the right enemies.

I also think that he was an eloquent person. I have a cable TV show which I have done for some 12 or 14 years in St. Catharines, and the best guest I could always have on my cable TV show was Mel Swart, particularly when I had a

sore throat. I could throw three or four questions out, and Mel could carry the entire show for me at that time and do it eloquently and well and inform the people of this province, particularly in our area, of his views, which were important, on any subject.

He was a master of the media. Those of us who first broke into parliament wondered how we could get ink in local newspapers or be on the airwaves from time to time. If any one of us watched Mel in action, we knew in the very best sense of the word that he was a showman who wanted to portray what he felt were important issues to the people of this province.

He has certainly been a leading light in the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and, latterly, the New Democratic Party. His leader, who will no doubt be speaking this afternoon, will perhaps be stating that better than I, but we all know that Mel has made an excellent contribution to the CCF and the NDP.

Mel, you have had as well the strong support of your wife and your family over the years. I have seen them out at many events. I have seen them in the galleries of the Legislature from time to time. I have seen them support you at a time when everybody else was perhaps not as kind as they might be to you.

So from a personal friend, Mel, and from representatives on the government side, I wish you the very best in what you refer to as a retirement to the stock car races, of which you have been very fond over the years, but to what we know will be continued service to the people of your area of the province and to the province as a whole.

Mr. Brandt: I knew it could not be true when I heard the rumour in the hallway that the member for Welland-Thorold had accepted a job with a large insurance company. I am glad the member has had an opportunity today to clarify that vicious rumour which someone started. I knew it could not be true, Mel, when I was first advised of it.

The announcement today by the member is one that I think touches all of us in a very deep and personal way. If I may also use the member's name on this one occasion, Mel Swart is someone who is an institution in this assembly, certainly, and a very admired and respected institution because of the way he has conducted himself in this House over the past 13 years.

I have had the opportunity to serve since 1981 with the member for Welland-Thorold and have always admired his tenacity in pursuing the various issues of interest to him, but more

particularly, the issues of interest to the constituents he has served so ably and so well.

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I think we all recognize that with Mel Swart it was not simply politics, that it was very much his interest in serving the little guy, perhaps the individual who was forgotten or the individual who was overlooked by the very large amount of government we have today, where people are sometimes inadvertently passed by, whatever the government of whatever political stripe. Mel Swart made sure that did not happen.

I can remember many occasions when Mel felt so very strongly about a particular issue in this House that he would start his debate and his presentation to this House in a very soft and a very mellow tone, as we are all aware, until he wooed all of us into listening. Then there would be this rumble as the member for Welland-Thorold gained and accelerated in both the speed with which he spoke and the volume level, which went up appreciably to the point where frequently he would shake the very chandeliers in this great hall with the kind of thunderous debate he brought to this floor.

Mel Swart will leave this House with the respect of each and every member who is here today. I know that to be the case.

I trust he is going to have the opportunity and the time to pursue personal interests and that his health will allow him to do so. I trust he will not be driving the stock cars, but just watching them. I hope Mel and his family will have the opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved rest. Whoever follows in the shoes of the member for Welland-Thorold of whatever political party is, indeed, going to have some very large shoes to fill.

I have respect for the member. He knows that. We have had a number of personal conversations. That respect goes back to things like the hour of the morning he arrives here at this assembly. He is one of the earliest to come to work, and as we all know, he is one of the last to leave. His heart has always been in the right place in serving his constituents. I admire him for that. He has left his mark on the Ontario political scene in a very, very real sense.

My party and I want to say that we have great admiration for you, sir. We have great respect for you, and we wish you well.

Mr. B. Rae: I am sure Mel will not be driving the stock cars because he cannot afford the insurance.

I might point out to members that Mel's good wife, Thelma, is here in the gallery. I know

members will want to say hello to her afterwards.

Mel Swart had a great deal to do with my taking on the job of leader of the New Democratic Party. First, I want to say I have just about forgiven him for that. But I also want to say, in all seriousness, that politics is a profession that has come, consistently for the last few thousand years, into some pretty tough and stringent criticism in terms of what it is that drives people who go into politics, what the price is that one pays and what kind of people succeed and do not succeed, and all the rest of it.

I just want to say about Mel today, and there will be ample opportunity to say a lot more, that I cannot think of a better example of integrity, of dedication, of no side in terms of personal ambition or anything of that kind. Mel is simply there. What you see, what all the members of this House have seen, is what is there: a pure and simple dedication for what he sees is the public good. Of course, he gets the satisfaction and the joy of doing the work he does. When we were talking about the weekend we have just gone through, because of all the publicity, Mel said it was one of the hardest weekends he had been through because he was not able to return calls from the press. Those who have known Mel and his ability to get press over time will know how difficult that is.

I just want to say that I cannot think of a better example to somebody looking at politics as a career or an avocation than simply to look at the work Mel Swart has done. He has not been a cabinet minister and has not achieved that kind of recognition because of the political ins and outs of our province, but nobody has made more of a difference to his constituents and nobody has served his own people and the people of the whole province more eloquently and with greater determination, gusto and humour. I can say as leader, and I know I speak for all my colleagues, that no one has been a better friend, a better colleague and a better happy warrior in arms than my good friend Mel Swart.

It is a sad day for me because of the reasons Mel has given for feeling it is time for him to resign. When we discussed, as we did recently, the news from his doctors and so on, he said: "I have to slow down. The doctor said this." I said, "Well, look, you can do that and still carry on." He said, "I can't, because you either do it 100 per cent and you give it everything you've got or you don't do it at all." That is just the way he is. I admire that so much and I can honestly say that all of us in our caucus, as I am sure the members

will understand, not only respect him but love him very much for what he has meant to all of us.

Perhaps, in closing, I could quote the words of Abe Lincoln who said that "when you measure a man, you measure him around the heart." This is a very big man.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HOUSING SUPPLY

Mr. B. Rae: It is a little hard to return to some of the more dismal realities of the Liberal government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: If you wish, we could forego question period today.

Mr. B. Rae: I am happy to wipe a tear from my eye, Mr. Speaker, and return to the business of the day. I have some questions today for the Minister of Housing.

The minister has succeeded in a ministry that has a rather remarkable capacity for underspending its budget. The minister will be aware that in the year prior to her achieving office, they underspent their budget by \$52 million. Since she became minister, the Liberal government has underspent by some \$38 million. I wonder if the minister does not feel that her own credibility and that of her leader—in talking, for example, with various municipal governments around and saying that municipal governments should get cracking with respect to the housing problem—does she not think her own underspending rather dramatically raises the question of why she has not got cracking herself?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: When we talked with the municipalities last week, what we said very clearly was that both the government and the municipalities have to get cracking. We made a commitment that in all the things that have taken time in the housing development process and have increased the price of housing because of the time it takes to develop land and get it on stream for building housing, we in this government would cut that time in half. We asked the municipalities to do the same thing on their side.

We know that we have work to do. We believe they have work to do. The message we gave them was that this is work we can do together and that if we do this work as well as I hope we will, because our commitment is there, we will be able to lower the price of housing and make it more possible for more housing that is affordable to be built for the people of this province who clearly need that help.

1440

Mr. B. Rae: I hope the minister is not blaming somebody else for the fact that her ministry has consistently underspent its own budget. Does she realize, for example, that the \$38 million she failed to spend and invest last year in new housing is enough money to subsidize 5,428 rent-geared-to-income units for a year? It could purchase outright about 760 private sector units for use as co-ops or build about 475 nonprofit units.

How does she feel as minister when she realizes that there are people who are literally living in basements, with their kids sleeping next to a hot water heater, because she has failed to spend the money this Legislature has allocated and approved her to spend? Does that not make her feel bad?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It makes me feel bad to think anybody does not have the kind of housing he or she deserves in this province, and that is the reason this government has put forward the resources that are going to make a difference.

Just today, I had a meeting with a group of private nonprofit producers to talk with them about the increased resources we are going to be using to build nonprofit housing all over this province. What I said to them, and am glad to say to the honourable member, was that we are going to be working together with them on increasing our efficiency and on working much more quickly and much more effectively than we ever have before, to make sure that much more nonprofit housing gets built all over this province as quickly and as well as it can be to serve the needs of the people of this province.

Mr. B. Rae: I still have not heard an answer to my question. Since this government has taken office the one consistent thing we can say is that this House has agreed to certain requests from the government of Ontario with respect to its housing program, and her government has consistently failed to invest and allocate the funds we in this House have authorized. At the same time, the number of families waiting, for example on the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority's waiting list, has grown from 4,642 families in June 1985 to 8,219 families. That is a 77 per cent increase.

How does the minister justify underspending the way she has underspent money this House has allocated for housing, at a time when the housing list has gone up by 77 per cent over the last two years?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Our Ministry of Housing is spending more money on providing housing every year, and that number has gone up

consistently. We will be building more housing than ever before with the commitment we have made. That is extremely important.

We have also addressed some of the reasons for some of the difficulties we have had in the past, and one of them has been the whole question of land. That is the reason we introduced a loan guarantee for those groups that need to buy land in order to build nonprofit housing. We have been consistently supporting that project over the past few months now and we believe that will make a significant difference in nonprofit groups being able to build the housing we have the resources for them to build.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Minister of Health. The minister will no doubt have seen the article, if she has not already seen the letter from Mrs. Pitcher in Oshawa. Her husband passed away while waiting for heart surgery. He was only 36 years old. I wonder whether the minister can tell us precisely what is her answer to Mrs. Pitcher.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am aware of this tragic case. I have received the letter the Leader of the Opposition refers to. I have written personally to Mrs. Pitcher to express my sympathy to her and her family at this very difficult time. I am aware and I recognize just what they are going through as a family, and they have my sympathy.

Because more than one hospital was involved in this case, I have asked ministry officials to look into the circumstances surrounding it.

Mr. B. Rae: This problem, this reality is one that is shared by literally hundreds of families. It is shared not only by patients with heart problems, but by many, many other patients who have other, if I might say so, very serious illnesses.

When is the minister going to make a statement in this House indicating that she understands the seriousness of the nursing shortage, that she understands the seriousness of the very real manpower problems in the health care system at the moment and that she takes responsibility for the fact that these shortages are in fact causing serious, and in some cases life-threatening illnesses to carry on for an unacceptable length of time? In fact, if one looks at the cases that are now coming across all our desks, they are situations families themselves are having to wrestle with every day.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Over the last few years, the hospital budgets for life-support programs have been increasing significantly. In the area of

cardio-vascular surgery, before I became aware of this particular event the Leader of the Opposition refers to, ministry officials met with a cardio-vascular surgeon from the Toronto General Hospital as well as with a cardiologist from Sunnybrook Medical Centre to discuss the potential for a bed registry within Metropolitan Toronto to ensure that those who have urgent need for care can receive that care as quickly as possible in the nearest available bed.

Mr. B. Rae: I really wonder if the minister understands the problem. Every time I have raised in this House the question of the nursing shortage, I have said to her, which I believe in all sincerity, that the nursing shortage is so serious now in some of our hospitals that it means there are patients who are being denied care who should get care, patients who are being denied operations who should have those operations. That is happening all the time. It is not an exceptional event. It is becoming part and parcel of the life structure of our health care system.

When is the minister going to state categorically that she understands that it is the nursing shortage which is contributing to this problem and that the government has an urgent plan of action to deal with the problem of the nursing shortage? If she does not appreciate it, it is there staring her in the face and she is going to have to face up to it.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: With regard specifically to the nursing shortage, I want to tell the Leader of the Opposition and the members of this House that within the next two weeks I am meeting with a committee I have reactivated to look at short-term, medium-term and longer-term solutions to what, in the past, has been a cyclical problem, working with the Minister for Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) as well as with the Ontario Hospital Association and the administrators of teaching hospitals, to determine—we know it is not just a matter of compensation; the Ontario Nurses' Association recently negotiated a contract with the Ontario Hospital Association, making them the most highly paid nurses in Canada. Clearly, there are other issues we must work on to determine that our hospitals are able to attract the kind of staffing they need to ensure the highest possible care and the most efficient management to the people of this province.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Minister of Housing and it relates to the recent budget document tabled in this House by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon). As the minister is aware,

every budget will bring in a series of adjustments and changes. In this particular case, the budget brought in a series of changes which, we are all aware, were all up in terms of the tax grab on the part of the Treasurer.

These adjustments and changes have an impact on a wide variety of services and programs and products in Ontario. I wonder if, as is usually the case, the minister's officials have in fact taken some estimates of the cost impact on an average home in Ontario as a result of the Treasurer's recent budget.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would like to refer that question to the Treasurer, if I may.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know if the Treasurer heard the question.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I know the honourable member will be aware that we have made a substantial commitment in the budget to the support of the Minister of Housing's endeavours. If he feels it is inadequate, then it is hard to balance that with his other statements. If he is referring to some changes in the sales tax, maybe he would like to put that more directly.

Mr. Brandt: I will put it very directly since the question was referred to the Treasurer by the Minister of Housing. The cost impact on an average home, as a result of the tax increases he has tabled before this House, will add \$3,200 to the price of a home.

My question to the Minister of Housing was going to be—it now will be referred to the Treasurer—how is this increase of \$3,200, added to the cost of a home as a result of new taxation measures he has brought in, as a result of an expansion of the sales tax and as a result of the land transfer tax, a combination of those three factors alone—I might add that the \$3,200 does not include the cost of furnishings or any other costs associated with any changes that might be done within the home itself—how is this increase going to improve the affordability of homes in Ontario when the Treasurer's budget has increased the cost by \$3,200?

1450

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the number that the leader of the third party is using is based on the normal exuberance of his researchers.

Mr. Harris: Why don't you table the impacts of what you've done, then?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, you certainly know what the increase is. I say in response to the interjector that the sales tax is now applicable to all building materials; before the budget it was applicable to all building materials except

concrete. There was certainly no reason to continue the exemption, because it has to be fair and equitably provided. The fact that we have gone from seven per cent to eight per cent on building materials is a result of the decision the Treasurer made, which I hope will be supported by the thinking members of the House, that it is necessary for us to have this additional revenue in order to meet our responsibilities.

Mr. Brandt: There is nothing fabricated, I want to assure you, Mr. Speaker, with the figures I have shared with the Treasurer. They are on the price of an average home in the Metro Toronto area, and the price increase is \$3,200.

In light of the fact that the Treasurer's budget increases the average home price by \$3,200 in this market, which is then going to cause a certain additional group of people to be in the position where they too are unable to afford a new home or to afford accommodations, because he is pricing homes out of their range, would the Treasurer do something that will in fact reduce the price of homes?

It is anticipated that, as a result of the free trade agreement—and these estimates are put forward by the federal Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs—the average home price will fall between \$5,000 and \$7,000. Will the Treasurer commit the government of Ontario, through his Premier (Mr. Peterson), to the co-operation that is necessary in order to bring about a free trade agreement, recognizing that that will neutralize the negative impact of his budget and actually reduce the prices of homes in this province?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am amazed at the convolutions of the questioning approach of the honourable member, and I want to point out that no one is questioning the fact that an increase in the sales tax will have an economic impact. We feel in the Ministry of Treasury and Economics that that impact will be absorbed in a buoyant economy and that it will be seen by people who are buying homes, people who are building them and all of the taxpayers of the province, who today begin to pay eight per cent, as something that is unpleasant, but I hope they will finally agree that it is necessary.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Eves: My question is to the Minister of Health. In light of the review of those hospitals incurring deficits in the province, our information is that her review concludes that a large number of these hospitals experiencing deficits have one through no fault of their own. In other

words, they are very properly managed, and they are still incurring a deficit. Her Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) stated that absolutely no hospital deficit will be funded by her government for whatever reason. Does she agree with the Treasurer?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the member opposite I believe will know and understand, the goal is to provide the highest-quality service with the greatest possible efficiencies in hospitals. We are conducting a two-pronged review, the beginning of which is to look at those 22 hospitals with ongoing and chronic deficits. The second phase will meet our goal to ensure that hospitals are fairly funded.

The Treasurer has been very clear that whereas in the past all hospital deficits were picked up, as you might say, it is not the intention to do that this year. I believe that the majority of hospitals do meet their budgets, and some 25 per cent have surpluses. The hospitals provide excellent care to our communities, and generally do so in a fiscally responsible manner. I have not had an opportunity to review the 22-hospital review which is under way.

Mr. Eves: We understand that the minister's deputy minister has sent out a letter implementing the Treasurer's policy. Presumably, that letter instructs hospital administrators as to how they should go about eliminating their deficits. Can the minister tell this House what instructions hospital administrators have been given to eliminate their deficits?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The ministry maintains contact with the hospitals on an individual basis across this province to offer them advice and assistance. As I said, it is our goal that we maintain the highest-quality services and the best possible efficiency in hospitals. I believe that it is a reasonable goal to look to greater predictability in hospital budgeting and that it can be achieved.

Mr. Eves: There are some 40 per cent of the hospitals in this province that incur a deficit. I believe the minister is well aware that her own internal review shows that a large majority of them have one, as I have said, through no fault of their own, through no mismanagement. The Ontario Hospital Association indicates that programs will have to be cut if they are going to eliminate deficits in their entirety.

"In all honesty," Gordon Cunningham is quoted as saying, "we have tackled every method of cost control we can. We believe that we are declaring our true costs, and society must look at whether we will be funded at the level the patient needs or not."

Can the minister tell this House and the Ontario Hospital Association what services she, as minister—it is her responsibility—recommends these hospitals cut to meet their budgets and not have a deficit? Will the minister please utilize her responsibility here and tell hospital administrators exactly what they should do to meet their budgets?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Let me reiterate, and I think the member has pointed out, that some 60 per cent of the hospitals in this province meet their budgets and in fact operate at surpluses. It is our intention to ensure that hospitals are fairly funded. We are reviewing the 22 with chronic deficits. When those reviews are complete—and they are not complete and I have not had an opportunity to review them—we will be ensuring that hospitals are fairly funded. We are looking to end chronic deficits and ensure that hospitals are adequately funded and are able to operate and to meet their budget needs and to provide the highest-quality services to their communities.

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The minister is aware, of course, that the drivers and mechanics of Wheel-Trans voted early this morning by a vote of 126 to nothing to go on strike. The fundamental issue is getting the same conditions for the Wheel-Trans workers as already exist for Toronto Transit Commission workers. The TTC will be taking over this operation, as the minister knows, this fall.

The average wage gap in the last offer actually increased, not decreased, for the Wheel-Trans workers; and in terms of security, the last TTC offer, the one it made on April 30, was less for the workers than the one it made on April 23, just a week earlier.

On April 19, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) responded to a question about the Wheel-Trans workers by saying that the government is going to hope that the parties understand the effects of what they are involved in and act accordingly. That answer was insufficient then, as it is now; and part of that question was, will the books be opened? Can the minister tell us if the government is prepared to demand that the books be opened in these negotiations?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: As the member will recall, during minister's statements I made a statement to the House on where the negotiations between All-Way Transportation Corp. and Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union were at this very moment. In my statement I said

that the parties were going back to mediation this afternoon at 3 p.m. Under the circumstances, I think it would be inappropriate for me to comment much further on what is going on in those negotiations or to make any comment at all on the substance of those negotiations.

Mr. Mackenzie: If the minister had dealt with that question at that time we might not have reached this point.

In 1984, there was a similar situation when the GO Transit service was being transferred from Gray Coach to the TTC. Now, the Wheel-Trans service is going from All-Way to the TTC. On August 29, 1984, the Premier and many of his present cabinet ministers voted for Bill 125, which legislated an end to the negotiations. The law gave the Gray Coach workers the same wages and working conditions as those of the TTC, exactly what the Wheel-Trans people are asking for now.

Can the minister tell us why this was good enough for the Gray Coach workers by this government in 1984, and why it is not good enough for him to pass that signal on today in these negotiations?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not sure what the member for Hamilton East is suggesting in this House with that question. I wonder whether in fact he is suggesting that a bill be introduced dealing with the matter in the same way that it was then.

I can simply say to him that the negotiations have involved the TTC for quite some time now. The issues relating to the full assumption of the service by the TTC as the successor to All-Way, as the deliverer of the service to the disabled community, are very complex. They involve a number of things, including issues relating to wages, to the business of job security and of course to part-time work. A number of those issues have been discussed publicly, but as I said in response to the first question, I simply do not think it would be helpful to the parties that are trying to come to a collective agreement, indeed right as I speak, for me to comment on what the government would prefer or would not prefer.

1500

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Minister of Education. The recent decision to provide a new school to help solve the space problems in Metro Toronto was clearly an intervention in the negotiating process by his ministry. Clearly this represents a new policy for this government, because on December 14 of last year the minister

told this House, in response to a question we raised, that his ministry had no intention of intervening in the ongoing negotiations that are taking place between the Metropolitan Separate School Board and the Metro public board.

Since his no-intervention rule has now been changed for the Metro Toronto boards, will the minister now apply that same rule to Hamilton thereby providing a new school for the Hamilton-Wentworth board?

Hon. Mr. Ward: In response, I want to assure the member that in dealing with issues relative to accommodation disputes under Bill 30, the practice of the ministry has been to deal with all boards of education throughout the province in the same way.

From time to time when boards reach an impasse they will approach the ministry and ask either for the appointment of a mediator or to avail themselves of the mechanisms that are provided under the current legislation brought in by Bill 30.

At that point, if the ministry, in consultation with the planning and implementation commission, is of the view that the means for locally negotiated settlement are available, what we have done is suggested and recommended a facilitator under section 136(w) of the Education Act, as opposed to moving towards mediation or arbitration as long as there appears to be a willingness on the part of both parties to resolve the issue themselves.

In the case of the Metropolitan Toronto negotiations, it became clear that they had reached an impasse. The services of a facilitator under Bill 30 were offered to both parties. That suggestion was rejected by the parties and a request came forward that the ministry participate directly.

Mr. Jackson: The minister has had the whole weekend to think about his response. He is on record in Hamilton as stating that it would be irresponsible to build a new school and yet he is on record in Toronto as saying something different. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) has said that kids are kids; it does not matter where they live. According to this government, it now appears there is one rule for the students in Toronto and another rule for the students in Hamilton and the rest of Ontario.

What is the government's position, and why has the minister now by his own statements created two sets of rules in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Ward: The rules are the same for all boards. The member shows an obvious ignorance of the situation in both circumstances.

In the case of the Metropolitan Toronto negotiations there was no movement towards using the mechanisms of the legislation for a third-party resolution. Indeed, there was a clear willingness and a high degree of leadership shown on the part of both boards to recognize their obligations and to do whatever they could to arrive at a locally negotiated settlement among themselves without an imposed solution. The request came that the ministry participate in those discussions and I was quite happy to accede to that request.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Mahoney: My question is to the Minister of Transportation. There has been a lot of talk about the increased taxes in the recent budget but very little about the benefit that has come out of that.

In the 1988 budget, there was an allocation for GO Transit containing an increase of \$33 million for improvements and expansion of rail service in selected areas.

The traffic congestion in my riding, and indeed in my city, is very great, and the Milton line of GO Transit is very well used. I often get calls from residents advising that there are not enough cars on the existing runs and certainly an expansion of the timetable is warranted.

My question is, will some of the additional allocation of \$33 million that is allocated for improvement and expansion of the GO rail service be used to facilitate the Milton-Union Station run; and if so what is the timing for this project?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member would be aware that the GO service is an extremely successful service, and as a result of that, the demands on GO service are absolutely enormous. GO is probably the most successful commuter rail service in North America and—

Mr. Laughren: Probably in the world.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Perhaps in the world.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: With a world-class minister.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: With a world-class minister. Yes; thanks.

The member has brought the concerns of transportation in general within his area to my attention, and he is aware we are working on a number of various initiatives with respect to roads and, of course, the GO Transit service.

The Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the government since 1985 have been very aware and have shown their responsibility and have in fact adopted a very progressive manner in which

we have funded and approached the expansion of GO service in a number of areas. Certainly the area my colleague is referring to is on that list of incremental services, and the timetable is just about set.

Interjection.

Mr. Mahoney: The honourable member opposite asks, "Why don't they stay in Mississauga?" We are actually a net importer of jobs into our city every day. More people come to work than leave to work. I would like to point out that there is extremely rapid growth in Mississauga. Will the minister take this and the volume of ridership, particularly on the Milton-Union Station line, into consideration when allocating these additional funds?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I would like to tell the member that we are very much aware of the growth and development trends around the Metropolitan area, particularly with respect to Mississauga and the region of Peel. In fact, in October 1985, in our statement that established the program to expand GO Transit, after the previous government had cancelled the GO advanced light rail transit program, we indicated at that time that two additional trains would be added to the Milton line in 1988 and they will be implemented this year.

FARM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. It relates to the suggestion made during the meeting between the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) prior to the budget that the Treasurer should extend successful grant programs this year. In view of the number and cost of work accidents on farms in this province, and in view of the success of the \$50-million Ontario farm management, safety and repairs program—it was set up to run one year ending May 31, but there was such a demand from farmers that the money ran out some weeks ago and the ministry has told farmers it will not accept any more applications—can the minister explain why the government did not respond to the prebudget request of the OFA that the budget include a one-year extension of the farm management, safety and repairs program?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I had thought, in light of the hospitality which I had extended to the member today in connection with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food centennial, that I might have been spared a question. However, that is politics.

The farmers were well informed that when we introduced that program, the program was to run for the one year; so it did not come as a surprise to them, I do not believe. We had also indicated that, once the money was spent, that was it; we could not accept any further applications. That is not to say that we do not continue to review all of our programs. I am well pleased that the safety aspect of that program was well utilized by the farmers, and I will have to tell the member that we will be looking at programs whereby we can maybe get more farmers to become more safety conscious about their work environment. You never know, we may have a program at some time.

1510

Mr. Wildman: In regard to the comment of the minister, he just went a long way today to prove that there is indeed a free lunch.

I would just like to find out, with regard to the request of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture for the extension of successful programs, whether the minister can explain why there was no mention of the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program, the OFFIRR program, in this year's budget. Can the minister confirm that instead of the \$60 million in 1986, in 1988 we are only looking at \$23 million budgeted for that program and, in fact, that it will be cut to 40 per cent instead of continuing at 100 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I guess the reason it was not mentioned in the budget is that this has been an ongoing program. It was a program that was introduced back in 1986. It was spelled out to be a three-year program with 100 per cent coverage the first year, 70 per cent the second and 40 per cent the third year. Things had not improved that much in the second year of the program so, with the co-operation of my cabinet colleagues, we decided to continue that program at 100 per cent coverage in the second year.

In the meantime, we are looking at more long-term programs for the farmers. I do not think the farmers want to rely on this type of ad hoc program when we figure that more longer-term programs are needed. We are working on a longer-term program, and I am hoping I can announce a much longer-term program for farmers when the OFFIRR program does come to an end.

The farmers are not surprised that the OFFIRR program is being terminated. It was a three-year program, and they knew that the terms were 100 per cent, 70 per cent and 40 per cent.

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mrs. Marland: Last week, I asked both the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini) and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) about the impending risk of strike for the Wheel-Trans workers. This is the third time in six days I have been on my feet to defend the interests of the disabled community.

Mr. Speaker: And the question is to which minister now?

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister of Labour. Now that the minister has joined the ranks of those people on his side of the House who say things will work their way out and now that he knows they have not worked themselves out, my question to him is this: two years ago, the minister legislated the Wheel-Trans people back during a similar labour dispute. Is he going to step in to quickly end this strike, or are thousands of disabled people going to have to wait until his government has the courage to do something?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I realize that my friend the member for Mississauga South has been on her feet a lot. Her problem is that she has not said very much when she has been on her feet.

If she is telling this House that in her view or in the view of her party, the workers, the drivers and the mechanics who are currently out on strike should be legislated back to work; well, that is her view and I would like her to stand up and say that.

We have taken a number of steps to ensure that the services which are of an emergency type are provided to the disabled community. I add that many employers are taking the same sorts of steps, so disabled people who will not be able to get to work with Wheel-Trans services are getting to work with the assistance of employers and with other community groups.

Mrs. Marland: This minister may say that I have been on my feet and I have not been saying anything. At least I have not been standing on my feet spouting out platitudes the way the government has on this issue. I think the problem is that the minister does not realize he is dealing with real people.

My supplementary question is this: since the minister and I were able to get to work today, and he in a more comfortable means I would suggest probably than I, and since the only alternative for many in the disabled community is that they spend money and find an alternative, expensive form of transportation, will his government agree today to reimburse these disabled people who find costly alternative means such as taxis during

the strike, or is the minister simply going to end the strike and allow the disabled community to get on with their lives?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I look forward to the member for Mississauga South standing up in this House and telling us what her position is on the strike.

The collective bargaining process must be given a chance to work itself out. The parties have been meeting right throughout the weekend to try to reach an agreement. The strike is only some several hours old. The parties are meeting right now.

Mrs. Marland: They met Saturday night. What was wrong with last night or yesterday afternoon or this morning?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Does the member expect—she keeps shouting and screaming, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would just like to advise the member for Mississauga South that she has already asked her supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The parties are meeting right at this very time. For the member to stand up and suggest that in the midst of two parties trying to reach a collective agreement, the Minister of Labour should interpose his view as to how the matter should be settled simply suggests that she does not have any idea whatever of what collective bargaining is all about.

INCOME TAX

Ms. Hart: My question is to the Treasurer. It concerns tax increases in his recent budget.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Ms. Hart: I have had some calls in my constituency office complaining about tax increases in Ontario, specifically—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The member for York East.

Ms. Hart: The calls deal specifically with the increases to provincial income tax. The people of Ontario already must pay an amount equal to 50 per cent of their federal taxes into provincial coffers. Why, in addition to other tax increases contained in this budget, has the Treasurer deemed it necessary to raise provincial income tax? How does he see this tax increase affecting the pocketbooks of the people of Ontario?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the member is aware that because of the initiatives at the federal level, the revenues from provincial income tax will be substantially reduced. We projected that without any action taken by myself as Treasurer to remedy it, we would in fact have had our revenues from only this particular source reduced by about \$510 million.

It would have been nice if I could have left that alone, but I have a requirement to pay the bills around here and also to provide the financing for the programs of development that have been so often discussed in the Legislature by right-minded members—make that correct-minded members.

In fact, the change of one per cent this year and another per cent next year will leave about \$238 million in the hands of the taxpayers, which will result in a reduction in their checkoff beginning July 1, that is the checkoff for personal income tax purposes.

Ms. Hart: I can appreciate the Treasurer's need to make up revenue lost as a result of federal tax reform, but I would like to ask the Treasurer how he can say, as he has on several occasions and again today, that he supports federal tax reform when his own tax increases are designed to recoup those lost revenues.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It is a valid question. We have paralleled the base changes in the personal income tax and almost every change in the Corporations Tax Act. In that connection, our paralleling of federal initiatives is almost complete.

I was concerned, however, in the case of the personal income tax, that the fairness had been interfered with by the amount of revenue the system would remove from the upper level of the income spectrum. For that reason, we imposed a surtax on incomes, in general, above \$80,000 to \$85,000 per year.

At the same time, we were concerned that the changes in the base of the corporation income tax would interfere with the competitive position that Ontario has and has maintained vis-à-vis the northern industrialized states. While we paralleled those bases, because we support tax reform, we also introduced an array of programs to encourage our industries to expand here in Ontario and, particularly, to emphasize the research and development component.

1520

GOODYEAR CANADA INC.

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Last month

after there were stories that Goodyear Canada was going to relocate in Napanee, the minister was asked a question by my colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) and responded that he would be making an announcement about the Goodyear project in due course. We have had no announcement.

Can the minister tell the House whether it is the policy of this government to assist a company such as Goodyear, one that has laid off 1,500 people in one community, to relocate to another community—looking for a government handout—yet without offering any guarantee that the laid-off workers will be given priority in seeking employment in the new community?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I thank the member for the question. Just to bring her up to date as to where the issue stands: I did say that in due time I expect to make an announcement regarding the location of the Goodyear plant. I have to say to her that is still the case. We are not in a position to make the announcement, primarily because there are still some federal matters that have not been resolved, but I have every indication that announcement will be forthcoming very soon.

To respond to the second part of the member's question as to whether we are in the habit of providing financial assistance to a firm that has closed down a facility in one place and opened it somewhere else, I would say to her that the issue of closing the plant in New Toronto was a separate issue. We negotiated the severance on that and what we have to decide—it really is a matter that is very difficult, and I admit it—is: do we cut off our nose to spite our face? We have a situation where a plant closes and we resolve or try to resolve that issue; and then separate to that, we go out and try to encourage some economic activity in an area of the province that can use it.

I can tell the member that we will make every effort—we have not signed any arrangement—to see to it that those employees in New Toronto are given fair treatment in any new facility that goes in to any other location in Ontario.

Mrs. Grier: Given the tone of the minister's response, I am not very comforted by the thought that he is going to make every effort. It seems to me it is a clear case of robbing the workers in one community to pay Paul in another community. That is not good enough for the Lakeshore.

At the annual meeting of Goodyear Canada Inc. last month, the shareholders were told that Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. of Akron, Ohio imposed a levy on the Canadian operation of almost \$30 million, exactly the same amount this

government is reputed to be negotiating with Goodyear Canada.

Can the minister give us an unequivocal guarantee that this government is not going to facilitate the passing through of public funds to corporate imperialists like Goodyear from Akron?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I would challenge the member to visit the part of eastern Ontario where that proposed plant is going to go and tell the workers who are going to be employed that there are corporate imperialists coming in to give them those jobs.

I should also say to her that we have a situation where we are in a competitive position in this province. We are not competing with New Toronto and Napanee. We are competing with Texas, Kentucky and Tennessee. What we have is an obligation to bring economic stimulation to this province, to provide jobs for Ontarians.

There are two separate issues: one is a federal tax issue dealing with the rebates that are going to the corporate headquarters in Akron, which is not a provincial matter; the other is the responsibility of myself as minister, my ministry, to help bring jobs to Ontario, to bring economic stimulation to areas of the province that need it.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. On December 2, 1987, there was a meeting of the Parkway Forest Tenants' Association, and in attendance at that meeting was Virginia Woo of the rent review office. At that meeting she apologized that the minister had not responded to the group of tenants earlier.

It turns out that four and a half months after Charles Hopper had written the minister, he finally got an answer from her. An MPP, the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz), wrote to the minister and got an answer in two months, and so we have got a four-and-a-half-month answer. By the way, the answer was not that good. It was pretty fuzzy and it passed the problem over to other people.

My question for the Minister of Housing is, what is a reasonable time frame for this minister to respond to people in the province of Ontario, tenants or landlords? What is a reasonable time frame for her to answer them on questions they might have?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: A reasonable time frame is as quickly as is possible.

Mr. Cousens: I am sure that, with the estimates now out, the minister is going to be

able to respond more quickly. From 1986-87 the figure has gone from \$16 million for the housing policy program up to \$26 million last year and this year to a whopping \$50 million that the minister is going to spend. Does that mean we are going to get better answers? Does it mean we are going to get quicker answers? Does it mean that we are going to begin to see what is going on within this ministry?

I would like to ask the minister, who just has not come up with an answer yet, although we keep on giving her a chance—

Mr. Speaker: You just asked three questions.

Mr. Cousens: My question is—the main question; I am just leading up to it—when does the minister plan to clean up the backlog she now has of 23,000 or 26,000 cases with her whopping \$50-million housing policy program, and what would be a reasonable time frame for rent review to respond to tenants and landlords?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It is because I am so concerned that tenants and landlords get certainty more quickly that we have pledged more resources to this part of the ministry to make sure they get the responses they deserve as quickly as possible.

There are some very good things that have happened under rent review recently, and one thing I am very glad to be able to tell the honourable member is that, as a result of the work of rent review and the Residential Rental Standards Board, over the past little while more than 500 landlords in this province, many of whom had outstanding work orders for as long as two years back, have, because of the work of our ministry, fixed the buildings where tenants live and given tenants all over this province better maintenance and better-quality housing than they would have had without the work of our ministry.

SALE OF LOTS

Mr. Callahan: My question is to the Minister of Housing, and perhaps she would share it with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye). Over the weekend, the Toronto Star reported that there was literally a mob scene in either Thornhill or Markham with people crawling over one another to purchase lots that were being made available. The difficulty with these lots was that, as I read the report—

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Our questions are tougher than yours.

Mr. Villeneuve: We noticed that.

Mr. Eves: Tougher for the questioner.

Mr. Callahan: I notice the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) is not here. Perhaps he is not interested.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Callahan: I notice that these lands had not been either zoned or designated in the official plan and they were in fact being offered for sale with deposits as high as \$30,000.

My question to the minister is whether she could confer with her colleagues and perhaps attempt to eliminate the possibility of lots being sold in such a fashion, for two reasons: first of all, the possible loss of the very significant deposits should the builder not be able to meet his financial commitments; second, instant flips, which would result in value that may be lost as a result of the rezoning or the official plan change being turned down.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I will, of course, undertake to talk with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations about what we can do about that. I need to look at it in greater detail.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Pouliot: I have a question for the Treasurer. Last December in this House, the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) stated that the difference in unleaded gas prices between northern Ontario and southern Ontario was in the order of 0.4 cents a litre. In some cases, he stated, the prices in the north and the south were pretty well the same.

We conducted a random survey after his budget—in fact, on April 27—and it showed the following: in the township of Schreiber in northwestern Ontario, unleaded, 56.9 cents; in Beardmore, 54.9 cents; in Nipigon, 54.9 cents; in Kingfisher Lake, 66 cents; in Fort Severn, \$1.01 a litre; in Toronto, at four self-serve stations between 45 and 46 cents a litre; and yes, the boys at Earl's in St. George, Ontario—I would imagine that most people tell the truth in St. George—charge 41.9 cents.

1530

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Pouliot: There is about 15 cents' difference between the north and south, but for the Treasurer that is not enough. He went and picked our pocket by another cent.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pouliot: What benefits will we derive from the increase?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable gentleman indicated his survey was dated April 27. Mine is

dated April 28. Although I have not got Fort Severn, which can be reached, as members know, only by a lengthy flight by private aircraft, which the honourable member does on occasion, it really is not reasonable to compare the price of gasoline in Fort Severn with downtown Toronto self-service. I just want to suggest that might be a bit extreme.

Also, the Earl's Shell Service in South Dumfries township, a village of St. George, is very much subject to the capitalist competitive system. They finally got the capitalist competitive system under control, not on April 27 but April 28, and the member will be glad to know that the price at Earl's Shell on April 28 was 48.5 cents. Everybody had filled up everything, including their tractors, and then the price went up.

Perhaps I should retain some of the more informative aspects of my answer for the honourable member's supplementary.

Mr. Pouliot: When dealing with this government, there are at least three sides to any story: the government's side, and we are not quite sure what it is; the minister's side; and the facts. The facts are as follows: a portion of road between Hemlo and the Manitouwadge corner is to be fixed. It is the Trans-Canada Highway. It is in deplorable condition. The latest gouging was to fix those roads and to expand the road network in northern Ontario.

I get a letter—what a coincidence—on April 21 from the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton).

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting for a supplementary.

Mr. Pouliot: He says as follows, "A contract for rehabilitation"—I guess when he is talking in terms of roads it means paving—"for this section of highway will be called in 1989, depending on the availability of funding."

He was doing so well. Will the Treasurer honour his commitment—we pay 15 cents more a litre—

Mr. Speaker: And your question?

Mr. Pouliot: —and finally give us the kind of road that the people in St. George take for granted?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member knows that we always keep our commitments. We are well known for that and the people expect those commitments to be kept. I thought he would be interested to know that with the increase in the tax on leaded fuel, which was put on for environmental purposes only, we now

have almost a complete equivalency in price in most communities.

But as I look at a random sample of prices taken April 28—and naturally these change in a competitive society—in Ottawa the price was 51.9 cents for unleaded; in Sault Ste. Marie it was 49.9 cents; in Lindsay it was 51.9 cents; in Sudbury it was 50.7; in Toronto it was 53.9; in Timmins it was 52.5 cents; in Scarborough it was 48.9 cents; in Parry Sound, which is about to be in northern Ontario, they tell me, it was 50.9 cents; and so it goes—Bracebridge, St. Catharines, 48.9 cents.

There is a variation in price. I believe that in some small communities, whether they are in the north or in the south, where competition is not as intense as it otherwise might be, there is a tendency to do what everybody seems to do in these circumstances and charge what the traffic will bear. I think the honourable member would not recommend government-controlled gasoline prices. The only place where this occurs is really in Nova Scotia, where the control is at the highest level in the maritime provinces. We do not want to repeat that in this jurisdiction, I am sure the honourable member would agree.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health. In January the minister told this House that the reason several women were transferred out of Metro to deliver babies and the reason a critically ill newborn was transferred to Buffalo for treatment was that there were not enough nurses available at hospitals.

At that time, the minister proudly pointed out that she was reactivating the Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower—a committee, I might add, which her predecessor had dissolved—to look into the problems the province was experiencing with regard to nursing shortages. The committee was to report to her by the end of February. It is now May 2, 1988, and still no action. When is the minister going to stop paying lipservice to this serious problem and start coming up with some concrete solutions?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have been discussing this particular issue with a number of representatives from the nursing profession and I am meeting with the nursing manpower committee next week.

Mr. Eves: As the minister will know, the Ontario Nurses' Association felt that it was necessary to take it upon itself to study the problem, due to the lack of action on the part of the government and the minister. They had

Goldfarb poll nurses during the months of January and February about this issue and have recently released the results. I am sure the minister will be aware that the poll found that one out of seven nurses is planning to leave the profession in the next two to three years and that the reasons for their leaving include excessive patient loads, too few support staff, increasing demands to perform non-nursing duties, poor work scheduling, not enough say in the way the health care system is run, inadequate compensation and lack of incentives.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Eves: The minister claims that the problems of the nursing shortage are cyclical. Does that mean that she is just waiting until these problems go away by themselves? Is that how she is going to return the system of health care in the province to the world-class system it used to be in 1985?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: It is interesting to note that this problem is not unique just to Ontario. In fact, there are more nurses moving into Ontario than any other province. What we find is that this is something which is worldwide, and as we expand to community-based services it is essential that we do manpower planning to reflect those needs.

I have been meeting over the last few months with a number of nursing associations and organizations. I have been discussing this with the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod). I think it is essential that not only in the area of nursing, but in all health care manpower planning, we look to short-term, medium-term and long-term initiatives to ensure that the services required by the people of Ontario will be able to be performed by health care professionals who are adequately trained and able to deliver those important services.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the time for oral questions and responses. The member for Waterloo-North (Mr. Epp).

MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Runciman: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: As you may recall, last Thursday, in a rather emotional outburst on an issue that I felt quite strongly about, I made some comments in reference to the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) which I have subsequently indicated to her I regretted sincerely. I felt it appropriate today to put those views on the record.

Mr. Speaker: I extend my apologies to you. In seven years you have seen me get irritated on occasion, but never to the point I was the other day. I think that is indicative of my feelings on the issue, but that was no excuse for the comments I made in reference to the member for Sudbury East and I want to express my regret on the record and extend my apology.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On a related point, Mr. Speaker, if I might: during the time that the member for Leeds-Grenville was upset last week, I had an interjection which I very much regret and noticed when I reread the record, and I want to apologize to the member for my interjection as well.

1540

PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: If the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) is finished—

Mr. Epp: No.

Mr. Speaker: I can recognize another member if you—

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Epp: I have just a few citizens concerned about Sunday shopping and I have just a few petitions here which I received on Friday. Together with my colleagues, the Minister of Community and Social Services, the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), and the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke), I met with the Sundays for People group and they gave me a number of petitions. I have not read them all. I cannot vouch for each individual one, but I did promise them and I do—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Usually the process is for a member to make a statement on the content very briefly and to say the member has signed the petition. It is not a time to debate.

Mr. Epp: You can appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that I would not have had a chance to have read them all, so I just want to present them at this time.

Mr. Pouliot: What do they say?

Mr. Villeneuve: What are they all about?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry, they are probably not addressed to the Lieutenant Governor, then.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I have some petitions and in fact I have noted they are covered by letters addressed to the Lieutenant Governor. I beg leave to file them, covered by the two collectors, who are Sundays for People and Sears Canada

Inc. These petitions, they indicate to me, were collected both before and after the tabling of Bills 113 and 114. They deal with Sunday shopping and they have indicated lack of knowledge of those two—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I may not have made it very clear. However, I thought on very recent, previous occasions I tried to draw to the attention of the House that members, of course, can read the main content and not debate it.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Tatham: “To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“In view of the many accidents and two recent deaths involving vehicles on the Towerline Road in the township of Norwich in the county of Oxford, we, the undersigned, hereby petition you to cause the construction of Highway 403 in the county of Oxford to be completed immediately so that traffic will pass directly between Highways 403 and 401, and not use as a connecting link the Towerline Road, Oxford county road 15, a narrow two-lane rural road never intended to be used as a major provincial link.”

There are 1,480 signatures, and I have also signed it.

ACCESS TO LAKES

Mr. Black: I have a petition signed not just by my wife, nor is it signed by only two people, but rather signed by 154 members of the Georgian Bay Hunters and Anglers Inc., which reads:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, consider the proposal by the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association to close crown land access roads, enforce closures on lakes and have tourist operators charge residents for access to water bodies on crown land as outrageous and totally unacceptable.”

I am pleased to present this petition and to sign my name at the bottom of it.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Sola: I have two petitions regarding Sunday shopping, one from St. Luke's-on-the-Hill, and it reads:

“Enclosed is a petition signed by 61 members of our congregation.

“1. Our opposition to transferring authority to legislate on Sunday shopping entirely to municipalities; and

"2. Our opposition to open Sunday shopping in Ontario."

It is addressed to the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

The second one is from Church of St. Hilary in Mississauga, which reads:

"We, the undersigned, members of St. Hilary's Anglican Church, Mississauga, do hereby petition the Lieutenant Governor and the Premier of Ontario that we are opposed to the proposed legislation that would give municipalities and regional councils the power to regulate Sunday shopping. Our families need a common pause day. The extension of Sunday shopping is neither necessary nor desirable."

They were both mailed prior to the legislation's being tabled.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

ONTARIO HOME OWNERSHIP SAVINGS PLAN ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre moved first reading of Bill 126, An Act to assist Ontario Residents to save for the Purchase of a First Home.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Conway: I move the order of the day standing in the name of the honourable the Leader of the Opposition concerning a want of confidence.

Mr. Breagh: I seek unanimous consent, in the absence of the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae), to put that motion.

Agreed to.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Breagh, in the absence of Mr. B. Rae, moved motion 1 under standing order 70(a):

That the government lacks the confidence of this House because of its abject failure to provide decent, affordable housing for the working families of Ontario, in particular, through its failure to increase the supply of affordable housing; through its failure to protect the existing housing stock; and through its failure to protect tenants.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Just for the information of the House and for the table, by agreement there will be a sharing of the time for this debate among the three parties represented in this chamber. That agreement also expects that a series of wrapups will begin on a time-sharing basis at or very near to 5 p.m. this afternoon.

Mr. Breagh: We have had a lot of discussion throughout the fall session and on into the spring about a very complex set of issues around housing matters. It has been some time since this Legislature has spent so much of its collective effort trying to deal with matters that have to do with housing.

As a matter of fact, at the time the previous government was in power, it virtually dismantled the entire ministry, at a time when, I suppose, there was general agreement that housing had been kind of put on an agenda that seemed to take care of people's needs and there was less need for the government to have an active role in that regard and the private sector could do it all.

Perhaps all that is happening now is that we are paying a heavy price for that decision. I think the consensus is not just among people in this Legislature but among people who reside in Ontario that there is indeed a crisis in housing. We have reached that state, because I think we have hit the point where there is not a family left in Ontario that has not some member directly affected by a housing problem. That is, surely, unusual.

It is even more unusual to find us in this quandary at a time of great economic growth. One of the things that strikes one immediately when one talks to the homeless, for example, is how can this be? How can there be people in large numbers on the streets of our big urban cities in the middle of this affluent society?

One of the things that has always made Canada different from, say, the United States is that we have always said to ourselves, "We will never allow there to be homeless people sleeping on the streets." We have all gone to American cities and to their fine opera houses, their great halls of political power, their great hotels, and we have seen outside all of these the homeless lying on the street. We have always said: "That is a benchmark. That is the difference between Canada and the United States. We would never allow a problem like that to exist here."

1550

I want to start on two or three fronts this afternoon because we are limited in time. I want to begin with what I consider to be the great shame of this society, and that is the homeless.

There are those who see them in our large cities and say, "Well, that is a big city problem." They are not just in the cities. They are in the rural areas as well. I am pleased to note that lately some of the Toronto papers are beginning to notice that there are housing problems in rural Ontario as well as in the big city.

There is a more startling edge to it in Toronto because the numbers are startling. To think that here in all this affluence there are, by some accounts, 13,000 people without a decent place to stay at all is startling. It is a scathing condemnation of a society that says, quite rightly: "We can afford to house the Toronto Blue Jays in a new domed stadium. We can build a new police station. We can build opera houses. We can spend all kinds of money and run all kinds of programs." In the middle of all this are the homeless.

It is odd, too, where they are found, because the homeless I have talked to are a particularly resourceful group of people. That may be, very simply or crudely, because they have no other option than to be resourceful. For many of them, if they are not resourceful they die.

In this society that is not a common phenomenon to observe. There are few things you would find in Ontario where if you do not take some protective action you would die, but among the homeless that is one of them because we live in a climate that is severe. They are resourceful.

It is ironic that many of the homeless find that the place where they can at least stay warm in the winter is in one of the big parking garages in downtown Toronto. At least there are heat vents. So when the cars have gone home to the suburbs for the evening, the homeless move in. They literally crawl into holes in structures like that where there are service panels, where there are places where water-mains are connected. They literally crawl in and keep themselves warm for the evening.

Some understand that there are structures around that are warm and bright where people do not hassle them too much and they go there, like Toronto-Lester B. Pearson International Airport as a centre for the homeless—it surely was not intended that way but they are there—and like our grand hotels in the downtown core where they would be kicked out of the lobby for sure, but in the stairwells where people rarely go they can be safe for a night.

What a shame it is that in the middle of all this extravagance we have not been able to deal with the problem of finding them—not a place for the night, because we can address that and we are doing that; in my community, like many others, we have a hostel system that is quite good and it is now expanding. But a hostel system is not a solution for these people; it is like an emergency ward in a hospital.

I do not think I could work in a hostel. I do not think I could look someone in the eye who I know

is poor, is not well fed and has no place else to go, and say, "You have stayed your three nights in our hostel; now you have to get out."

The homeless people I have talked to, being resourceful, know how to get shelter. I talked to a guy on College Street. We were having a little rally and we invited the minister down to talk to us and she could not make it that day. He said: "I know how to get shelter for a night. If it is cold out, if the hostels are full and there is no place for me to go, I go into a restaurant and create a disturbance."

This is true. If he asked for a place to stay for the evening at the door of the minister's office, somebody on her staff would say, "Sorry, we do not do that stuff." But if he goes into a restaurant and creates a disturbance, we sure know how to deal with him then. Then the cruisers arrive and the police arrest him. Then the law system takes its toll. Then they put him through a court system. All this time we feed him and all this time we provide him with shelter, and for as long as the jail sentence is he is looked after.

Is this what we want? Is this the kind of society we are trying to build here? Do we really mean that because the homeless in rural Ontario are out of the sight of most of us that is acceptable? Alabama and Mississippi are not the only places in the world where people in rural areas live in shacks. We have that in Ontario and many of us who have been around the province have seen this ourselves.

If you have been through northern Ontario and have seen how our native people are treated, you would be ashamed. If you have been to rural Ontario and have seen how the poor are treated, you would be ashamed. If you have been to many of our parts of rural Ontario, where we pay people \$75,000 and \$80,000 and \$90,000 a year to administer social services programs, and their version of helping people in this situation is to provide them with a bus ticket to the next city, you would be ashamed. I am ashamed that with all the wealth this province has, with all the resources this government has, we have done very little, nothing at all for the homeless.

If it were true that we do not know what to do I guess I could accept it; but we do. We do have examples, small in number, of people who know how to provide the homeless with a decent place to live. We do know what a benefit that is in a number of ways, when people get their lives stable enough that they know where they are going to sleep tonight. It is amazing that in the middle of all this affluence, again there are food banks at a phenomenal level.

I came across a little Sunday bulletin from St. Paul's Anglican Church. At that church like many other churches they run what they call their parish pantry. In other words, they collect mostly canned goods and packaged goods and distribute them to people who are poor and in need. In their church bulletin is this little quote—they are quoting a former Metropolitan Toronto councillor—"It is absolutely disgraceful if churches which set up parish food programs say nothing about the root causes of hunger." That may be a low blow, but it contains some truth.

At the root of the hunger problem in our city is housing. There are thousands of people in Toronto who are in low-paying jobs or on welfare who have to spend up to 80 per cent of their incomes on housing, to say nothing about the many who cannot afford housing at all and sleep in hostels. People know, much more than one would anticipate, that the root of this problem we see in our society is a gut one, shelter. They care.

If this government were to try to mount an argument that it could not afford to approach the housing problem, we would collectively laugh it out of here. It has income at levels few governments have ever seen in Ontario. The people out there are quite prepared to give up their time on their weekends to stock a local food bank. The response to pleas to help the starving in Ontario is phenomenal. The support among the public to take some action in a meaningful way to solve this crisis is there, and yet the government does so little.

I cannot help but draw a comparison. If the crisis were among other people, if some of these people were not dirty and unwashed, and many not fully educated and few able to clothe themselves as we do, one would look at them differently. If a natural disaster hit Etobicoke tomorrow morning, I know exactly what would happen. The government of Ontario would declare, "There is a crisis in part of Ontario and we have to respond to that." The limousines would head for Etobicoke and the ministers would be there showing great care and concern as long as the film crews were around, and the cheques would be there. I know that because I have seen two governments now respond to disasters of that kind in exactly the same way.

Because the homeless are not all in one place, because they are not exactly the kind of people one would probably think of as stable voters, perhaps because one is not aware of them, the government does not respond. Maybe it would be an idea to gather them together somewhere, down at the lake, on the islands or in the football

stadium at the Canadian National Exhibition and just say: "Here are the homeless. Let us pretend that last night they were hit by a hurricane. Respond as you would in that situation."

It is a great shame for this Legislature that we have not done what ought to be done for the homeless in Ontario.

1600

Let me deal with a couple of other concerns I have. Those who are tenants are somewhat better off. They have some shelter. But there is a great irony here too. We have all kinds of laws on the books of Ontario to protect tenants in almost every way you can think of. The only problem is that there is virtually no one to enforce those laws.

It would be an interesting approach if any other law in Ontario were dealt with in the same way. If the Ontario Provincial Police had four officers to cover criminal law in Ontario, we would say that was ridiculous. If tenants, who have a legal right to certain prescribed circumstances, cannot get them enforced, then their legal rights do not exist.

I know the minister is aware that there are problems in the west end of this city where one landlord literally, physically threw his tenants on the street. All they had to do was to take that abuse, come to Queen's Park, gather the attention of the media and the minister responded. But that is not much of a way to administer a law.

The ministry has had serious problems with its rent review program over the last year. They are doing a magnificent job of sitting on information, I must say. Still, in the midst of all that attention, in the midst of the fact that there are about 26,000 backlogged cases by some estimates, and at least 23,000 by the ministry's own estimates, it continues to put forward more problems than solutions.

On Wellesley Street in Toronto, in one building at 155 Wellesley Street East, the rent review decision is public. It is a little over 20 per cent and has to be phased in over a five-year period. What that really means is that for the next five years, it is 20 per cent a year.

Part of the problem here is that the minister herself and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) cannot stand in this chamber and say, "The average rent increase across Ontario will be five per cent," when there are people in Ottawa who have already been hit with 36 per cent and people in Toronto with 20 per cent; and all around Ontario, as this pattern emerges, the average is 12 per cent or 13 per cent.

In the main, they would be really happy if the government would simply enforce the laws that are there, however imperfect they might be. If a law is of equal stature to the Highway Traffic Act, why is it not applied equally?

I gather that the ministry is now aware that people are trying to elicit key money from tenants. I am aware that every time they catch one of these cases, they issue a press release. Here is one that came on my desk today. The irony again struck me.

In this one, a Mississauga woman was fined \$450 for demanding key money. She pleaded guilty to demanding \$1,000. She was fined \$450 and she wanted \$1,000. Not bad. Dillinger would like those rules. You go into the bank and you say, "Give me \$10,000;" and the clerk says, "It is only going to cost you \$5,000." He says, "All right, I will take the other \$5,000," and walks away.

There is an immense problem here of key money and illegal practices all through the landlord and tenant situation, particularly here in Metropolitan Toronto. It is especially unfortunate for those who do not live in Toronto where there are legal aid clinics and tenants' associations and tenants can at least fight back.

Tenants have had a rough year and it does not look to me like it is going to get any better.

Let me talk about one other area. It is a tough one and several governments have taken a run at this. Perhaps because no one has really done anything over the last few years, we are left again with a cumulative problem.

It used to be that young families had, if not a right at least a reasonable expectation that at some point in their working lives they could buy a home. That is a dream these days. It is a dream for a variety of reasons. It is not likely to be a reality for any of them.

There are some startling little facts in here. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that not one member of this Legislature, on the legislative salary, could qualify for a mortgage on a new home in Toronto? Now, are we not supposed to be the fat cats, the well paid in our society? Not one member, on the base salary, which is what would be used in trying to qualify for a mortgage, could qualify for a mortgage on a new home in the city of Toronto.

Most of us, I hope, are as lucky as I. We bought homes several years ago. I would be really happy to sell my house as long as I did not have to try to buy another house. Most families are in the same position. For people who are trying now to get a home, which not that long ago

did not seem to be an unreasonable expectation, it is unreasonable, for a variety of reasons.

I was interested, for example, that in the recently tabled budget the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) now has a new program to assist people to save up and buy a new house. I asked him, "Where can you use this new program?" He thought maybe St. George, but he could name nowhere else—certainly not here in Toronto, certainly not where I live in Oshawa, certainly not in most parts of Ontario.

It is interesting too that in the same budget, he allowed you to save roughly \$1,000 per year and he raised the provincial sales tax on a housing unit \$1,500 to \$3,000. You are not getting far on that basis. When the price of the unit goes up \$3,000 and you are allowed to save \$1,000, you are in the hole \$2,000. Most people can figure out that kind of economics at their kitchen tables. They know they are in a hole.

I noticed too that last week, although it was not done in the Legislature, the Premier seems to have taken over the ministry. The Premier invited local mayors to come in. In my reported version of what transpired at that behind-closed-doors meeting, it was very simply that the Premier has finally figured out that housing is more than a sweet headache. It is going to cost him a government if he does not smarten up. That always catches his attention.

He has figured out that he ought to do something about it; he is not quite sure what. He called the mayors in and said, "Listen, we really have to do something here." He was a little short on the specifics about what he might do and a little short on the specifics about what might be done in general; but he said, "If you do not do something of your own accord, we are going to use all the power we have as a province to make you create affordable housing." This is really an interesting approach to things.

Let me simply say that a ministry that has been unable to spend its allocated funds for three years in a row is not my idea of a real winner. That is not exactly how I would go about producing things.

If I were the Premier of Ontario I would be pretty quiet about things done under the Planning Act, because I remember being on a municipal council where we always used to wonder, "What the hell happened to that development plan we sent to Queen's Park?" Trying to find it is the first and toughest game. "Which of the ministries has this thing seized in its little hands now? When might we ever get this back?"

This is a ministry and a government that for three years in a row has said the right things but has not been able to produce. It has failed to use up the allocations it had.

Among the many people I talk to who are trying to provide some kind of affordable housing, their number one enemy—they know it, although some are afraid to say it—is the ministry. The ministry that should be a friend to them, that should help them through the planning process, that should help them put together the proposals, that should help them make a better proposal, that should expedite that proposal, is the biggest enemy they have and they know it. The only problem is, they are afraid to say so, because the ministry is also funding them. That is a shame.

Let me offer some suggestions as to what the government might do. First of all, I think in fairness to all the tenants in Ontario, the government should turn to them and say: “The Landlord and Tenant Act is a law like any other law and it will be enforced that way. If there are flaws in it”—I can think of some obvious ones, for example, in rent review—“we will fix them.”

The obvious one in rent review is to close that little part of the act—I think it is section 79 or something—which says that if you incur financial loss we will allow you to roll that over, flip it, so that tenants will pay it. I know the intention when that particular section of the act was put in, but I also know how creative landlords have been in flipping apartment buildings, in creating debt positions, in making sure there was financial loss and in being able to document that. I know how tough it is for tenants to even combat the argument.

1610

Let me suggest to the government that if it is serious about providing affordable housing, it should say so. The minister does have, under the Planning Act, the ability to say to municipalities things like, “I would like to see—in fact, I want to see—that 25 per cent of the new residential growth that comes in your community is allocated to affordable housing, and we can spell that out for you about industrial average wage and all that kind of stuff.”

But for many of our municipalities, nobody has said that to them. I know what the development industry will say if the government applies it in Markham but not in Oshawa. They will say, “You’re picking on us.” The only fair way the government can do that is to apply that to every official plan in Ontario. And they will all complain—I will give the government chapter and verse on exactly what they will say—and then

they will walk outside the door and say: “Well, hell, it’s just the cost of doing business. Somebody has now said we’ve got to provide some affordable housing, so we’ll do it.”

Every developer I have ever seen before, on any council I have ever been on, has done that. They all come in and say, “Your lot levies are atrocious. You’re ruining us. This is awful;” and then they say, “Give us the approvals and we will build it anyway and we will pay the money.” The cost of doing business.

One of the costs of doing business in the housing industry these days ought to be the provision of affordable housing. They can do it, but the problem is nobody says they must do it and so they will not. What about the government’s simply getting its people to start working with all of these ideas that have been generated, getting people to recognize that the government is not the number one enemy of nonprofit groups that are trying to provide affordable housing but the number one friend. That would be a substantial switch and that is why this motion is before members this afternoon.

The Deputy Speaker: I have been told the entente is that the next speaker will be a government member and you will alternate between the third party and the government party.

Hon. Mr. Patten: I welcome the opportunity to talk about housing and matters related to housing.

It seems to me that as elected members we are here to foster a climate of social justice and address vital social issues. As lawmakers and as legislators and people who determine government policy and set the government’s agenda, ours is essentially a social role. It is up to us to examine the inequities of society and achieve a balance where the basic needs of all are met. It seems to me that there are few needs more basic than shelter, yet in the economic and social context of today’s Ontario shelter has become an expensive commodity. You would expect shelter to be a problem in hard times, but in Ontario these are not hard times for most people; quite the opposite.

As the centre of this economic whirlwind, Toronto has the potential to address its own social needs and spin off benefits for other parts of the province, to diversify and contribute to the smaller communities in Ontario, to develop a network of prosperity that will sustain our standard of living during ebbs in the economic cycle.

Our challenge is to harness this economic energy and to direct it in positive ways to meet the social goals of government. All this economic expansion is drawing more and more people to this province and, in particular, to the greater Toronto area: 110,000 additional people moved to Ontario last year, primarily to the Toronto area, Kitchener-Waterloo and to the Ottawa-Carleton area.

That places greater demands on all the services our communities have to offer, including the cost and the availability of shelter; but it further underlines the problems of those not fully sharing in this prosperity. The provincial government is not alone in targeting these areas, nor is it alone in working towards these solutions. All across this province, communities are taking up the challenge, finding home-grown solutions to the economic and social conditions that they are confronting.

Des villes comme Sudbury et Sault Sainte-Marie illustrent bien le revirement extraordinaire qu'ont connu les économies locales au cours de ces dernières années. À notre avis, le gouvernement joue et peut continuer à jouer un rôle de catalyseur dans cette croissance, grâce aux moyens dont il dispose pour favoriser l'expansion et renforcer l'infrastructure socio-économique.

The northern Ontario relocation program, for example, is an endorsement of our belief in the people and the communities of the north. It is a way we can build on what we are doing and on what they are doing. Bringing government closer to the people is one of the primary social goals behind our moving 1,600 jobs with an annual payroll of \$48 million to four northern communities.

Programs such as our northern relocation cut across many ministry lines. As Minister of Government Services, I am in the fortunate position of working jointly with a number of ministries. That gives me the opportunity to see the true breadth and scale of government involvement with communities and local people in all areas of the province.

I mention this example because I feel it is the key to encouraging regional and provincial economic expansion. One of government's roles is to help people locally to find local solutions. There is a vast knowledge in each community and there is a sensitivity to the nature of local needs that we need, of course, to release. When we do that, as we have seen in the examples I have mentioned, the benefits flow back to the whole community.

This has also been one of our approaches to the housing concerns. Of the houses brought on stream by this government over the last two and a half years, fully one quarter have been nonprofit units initiated by local community groups.

A few weeks ago, I announced the release of five provincially owned sites in the Metropolitan area. The Ministry of Government Services is the steward of Ontario lands. As part of that responsibility, MGS is reviewing the province's surplus land holdings as part of the government's Housing First policy. The sites recently released have been identified as having housing potential.

As my colleague the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) said, the province is prepared to lease or sell lands, as required, at below market value to assist in the creation of housing for low- and moderate-income earners. The minister emphasized, and I emphasize as well, that decisions to sell or lease land at below market value would be made on a site by site basis.

We are ready to cut housing costs by reducing the land component of the end price, but we intend to ensure that any cost reduction we create in this way is passed on to the people buying or renting the accommodation. For rental accommodation, one way we can ensure that these savings are passed on is through our support for nonprofit housing sponsored by local community groups.

The sites released in Metro are intended for a full range of housing, totalling some 2,000 units. When I say "a full range of housing," I think it is important to understand that is what we mean. Those who feel that all housing on provincial lands should be for one income group only, I think need to listen very carefully to the lessons of history.

The meeting of the Premier with four ministers and the mayors this past week underlines that fact. I have said in the past—and I will say it again—that the days of high concentration of social housing are over. Our goal is urban development that features a mix of housing, a better-quality product more in keeping with the surrounding community character or, in fact, where required an improved social environment.

Affordable housing will be an important part of this, but it is not the whole story. I said earlier that shelter is a basic need, but shelter on its own is too limited a response. This is not housing in a vacuum. It is intended to be part of a living, breathing community. We want to involve the members of those communities in the end product and in the process that gets us there.

We want to satisfy social, economic and urban design objectives. We want to create neighbourhoods within existing communities that are sensitive to their surroundings. To see these intentions put into practice we need look no further than the 50-acre site we released in Etobicoke. This is made up of lands owned by Humber College plus 32 acres owned by the province on the grounds of the former Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital.

Requests for proposals have already gone out seeking a project consultant to develop site plans for this location. This consultant will look at the best use of this land, keeping in mind our Housing First objectives. In this process we will seek local comment and involvement. Indeed, this could well be a pioneering effort.

There is certainly a role for other provincial agencies with land to offer to follow the example of Humber College and join us in achieving our housing and urban development goals.

There will be further announcements in the near future on sites within the Metro area, in the area surrounding Metro and, indeed, across the province. Some of these will involve new mixed-housing developments. Others could highlight surplus government lands which have been examined for housing and found unsuitable for affordable housing. Money from the sale of these lands will boost the province's housing development fund, rechanneling the proceeds for public investment into other programs to create affordable housing.

1620

We stand on the threshold of a new era of co-operation and accomplishment. In the words of Eldridge Cleaver, "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem." I am pleased to see that people across this province indeed are responding, that there is a growing realization that housing is everyone's concern and not just the purview of government. Indeed, people are responding.

In my own riding of Ottawa Centre this is very much in evidence. Developers, nonprofit groups, tenants, landlords, government officials, community and church leaders are meeting at housing workshops to share their ideas on affordable housing and their action plans as well. I have hosted two of these workshops, which brought together more than 100 of these community and industry representatives. They have been very, very interesting, and indeed have challenged us to get on with the job, to cut irritants and to work together.

It is encouraging indeed to note that the workshop participants do not view housing as solely the government's problem. In fact, they invite the government to work more closely with local groups to develop a widely accessible information base that will allow them, as community groups, to identify critical areas where they can help.

In response to this, I have asked several members of community organizations—to name a few, Housing Help, the Centretown Citizens' Community Association, Daybreak and the Federation of Ottawa-Carleton Tenants Associations—to assist in these ongoing workshops. I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with these groups and thank them for their participation, as well as for their continued involvement in what is for all of us an exciting experience.

My colleague the Minister of Housing took part in the second workshop. I am sure she will agree with me that it was an exciting event, seeing realtors and developers discuss ways to make lands available to nonprofit groups and co-ops. It was gratifying to be part of the process whereby thought became concrete proposals. Workshop participants are now meeting with community churches to discuss land use. We are also organizing a pilot project to address the specific housing needs of seniors within the existing housing stock.

Ce qui se passe à Ottawa n'est qu'un exemple parmi d'autres. Nous constatons ce regain d'intérêt et d'enthousiasme pour la chose communautaire dans l'ensemble de la province.

This government is proud to play a part in this grass-roots movement. On one hand, we have been directly involved in providing affordable houses in Ontario. On the other, we are working closely with community groups to facilitate their involvement in this area. Our approach is innovative and diverse. We seek to strengthen local communities, to use our resources and staff to make them strong and viable. We are also, through our social ministries, enhancing health care and community support services in all communities, rather than concentrating them solely in metropolitan areas.

Local community groups, in my opinion, are an important key in the government's nonprofit housing programs. We support them by giving them some tools to do the job. With these tools, they can create a response that indeed is tailored and customized to their own needs and conditions. I think this partnership between government and communities is a blueprint for positive

action and the release of new resources to address housing in its variety of facets in the future.

Mr. Cousens: Today is a day that does not thrill any of us, to have to take time out of a busy schedule of the business of this House to debate a motion of nonconfidence in the government on an issue on which it was elected last September 10. Here today we have to bring to the attention of the government its failure to respond to housing needs in Ontario.

There has already been one vote of nonconfidence in this government. It took place in late March in London, Ontario. London North was in a position to elect a Progressive Conservative member to this House, based on the lack of confidence the people in that riding had and the failure of this government. There were many other issues that were part of the mix, but one of those issues happens to be housing as well.

Today, as we address this most important subject, we do it with a sense of great sadness. There is no joy at all for us to be here. Most of us have apartments or homes. We are doing well. We have so many things to be thankful for in this province, yet there is an increasing constituency of people out there in this province who do not have a home or who have to travel so far from their apartment to their work and their employment that it ceases to make life as meaningful and as good as it could be. It is especially shameful when you see a government that has just been full of words but not action.

Very often in the past, when you measure the effectiveness of a ministry, you look for something to happen in the first 100 days, when the government is elected. From September 10 through the first 100 days or so, this Minister of Housing made no announcements in the House; she made no initiatives. In fact, this government showed a callous disregard to the needs of the homeless and the needs of those people who are living on marginal incomes and having marginal places to live. It is a failure on the first order of this government to address a very significant problem. This government was elected on the promise of building and making available 102,000 units by the end of 1989. We are well on our way through 1988, and the chance of it fulfilling that promise is impossible now. Yet there it was, promised and not delivered.

Last week I had the opportunity to attend two tenants' meetings in Metropolitan Toronto. By the way, the problem of housing is not just in Toronto but crosses all boundaries in this province, but in the Metropolitan Toronto area it becomes all the more severe when you start

listening to the cries and the problems of people who were attending these meetings.

I asked one question: "How many people in this room are aware of anyone who has had to pay key money?" Someone from the ministry bragged saying, "We had at least eight people charged in North Toronto for having been involved with key money." Yet more than half the 350 people at that meeting put their hands up as knowing people who had to pay an exorbitant amount for their carpet or for an air-conditioner or for something else.

Mr. Pouliot: Or \$2,000 for a coffee table.

Mr. Cousens: Coffee tables; it could be anything. What is happening now is that this government says, "Yes, there are places available," but the number of places available is 0.1 per cent. For every 1,000 apartment units, there is one vacancy. Does that make sense?

What happens now is that these people, in order to find a place in downtown Toronto, can pay as much as \$25,000 in key money. I do not know many people who have that kind of dollars, but that is a sum which has been spent by people, according to sources, to get into the ManuLife Centre at the corner of Bloor and Bay. The minister does not even sound as if she knows or is aware of it, but key money is a big problem. This government has not addressed the grass-roots problem, which is to have more units available.

The second question I asked is, "How many people here have applications for rent review and how many people have waited over a year for a response?" It was incredible the number of hands that went up: almost everybody's. For a rent review system to be as backlogged as this one is almost criminal, because these people who are so backlogged are continuing to pay their present rent; then they come along and it is not 4.7 per cent or 4.9 per cent, it is a 10, 15, 20 or 30 per cent increase in the rent. Then they have to come back and dig into their back pocket or sell something or borrow in order to pay this increase.

If at least the rent review system was acting responsively and responding more quickly to the needs these people are having, there would be an answer in time for them to do something about it. But the terribly lengthy delay is adding to and compounding an already most severe problem. The number of people who have difficulty with the rent review system is something we should not accept.

1630

Michael Melling, who is with the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, said that the

number is not 23,000 who are in backlog, it is closer to 26,000. This minister never tells how many are on the list anyway, because she probably does not know; this ministry probably cannot even count that high. But the fact is that as long as there are 1,000, we have 1,000 too many. It could be 23,000 or 26,000 people who are backlogged and who are waiting 12 months, 15 months, 20 months.

I wonder if, some day when the minister starts answering questions in the House, she could tell us just how many people are on those lists, how many people have been waiting for over a year and how long it is going to take to get those questions solved. Certainly the government cannot just keep on throwing money against the wall and think it is going to solve it, yet that is what this government has done in its estimates. It has come along and said, "Next year we are really going to do something."

Well, what they are going to do is spend money, but there is no guarantee that the additional money they are going to spend on their housing policy is going to guarantee any improvement in service to the people who are waiting for their rent review; and it is going up from \$26 million in 1987-88 to over \$50 million.

If I had any satisfaction that the \$50 million was going to do something to help those people who are waiting for an answer, then that could be a good investment, but I see it as no investment. It works out to almost \$2,000 per person who is waiting on those waiting lists. They could use the money a lot more to pay their rent.

So when we asked people at this meeting, "Are you having a problem with rent review? Do you have any concerns?" there was a strong statement from the people at that collegiate saying, "We have a problem."

The third question was—I will word it exactly as I did—"How many people would like to own their own home?" Just about everybody said they would. Yet how many people are going to? Not with the way this government is going about it, not with the way in which people are having to cope. What kind of help is there when they go to buy a home? How is it possible for people with their own income to qualify for a mortgage even if they were to make as much money as we make? They would not qualify, as was so eloquently said by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breough).

It was a fascinating experience. It was one of those times when the minister had been invited to come but could not come. She had been invited to come to another session later on in the week at C. W. Jefferys Secondary School; she could not

come to that one either. But the fact is that people who live in Metropolitan Toronto are not happy with their housing or their accommodations. We are seeing landlords flipping buildings, using excuses of maintenance costs to increase rent, and yet the maintenance and the services within those apartment units in which they are living is going down and down.

We are talking about people who are losing their very sense of pride in themselves because they are not able to live in a place in which people are collectively proud of where they are. We are seeing a society which is becoming a put-down group of people.

The fact that we have maybe 20,000 people who are on the streets of big cities in Ontario is only a symptom of a greater problem. It is a symptom of those people who are now living in apartments that they do not want to live in, apartments that are deteriorating because this government and this ministry have lost contact with the free enterprise system that might find ways of working with the government to invest in more housing, invest in more rental places, invest in more things.

No, this is a government that has turned off not only the renters and the landlords, it has turned off the private enterprise system by saying that it is going to do something for us, and yet it has not done it, it has not followed through.

Now, when we start seeing a \$50-million bill for its housing program and no satisfaction on the part of our party that this government is really going to begin to achieve any improvement, that becomes a matter of confidence. So we come into this House to talk about the firsthand situations of people who are desperate for housing, desperate for a solution, desperate to pay the rent they are supposed to pay but who do not even know what it is going to be; and of the landlords who want to know what they are going to do this year. It is not just a tenants' problem, it is a landlords' problem too; because if the landlord does not have a clear indication of what he can charge for last year, how can he come along with a statement of what he is going to charge for this year?

What is a reasonable length of time for a person to have to wait for rent review, or for a landlord to have to wait for rent review? I asked the minister that question today, and both times she escaped answering it. We will keep asking that question: what is a reasonable length of time for people to get an answer from that system?

I am concerned about people who are starting to worry about security for themselves and for their families in their apartments. You know, we

are talking about a system where, when you do not have a home and you do not have a house, people start to lose confidence in themselves. They lose that sense of hope for the future, and they talk about a society that begins to react in a violent way. May I suggest that the people who attended those meetings last week are reaching the end of their tethers. They know there is no one there fighting for them in this government.

I am pleased to say that our party is anxious to try to help. We see ways in which this government can work effectively with private enterprise, but we do not see it working with the way this ministry is being run.

I could not believe the number of concerns that came up at another session last week at C. W. Jefferys Secondary School, again in North York. It was one of those things where people would phone the Ministry of Housing to ask a question and they would get one answer, then they would phone another office and get another answer. It is sloppiness in the extreme. We are talking about a ministry that is throwing more and more money to try to solve a problem but is getting further and further away from a solution.

What is going to happen in Metropolitan Toronto if we continue to have the problems we have now? I venture to say that we will soon be at the point where they should just say: "No vacancy. There is no more room in this city for more people to come." Why does this minister not come up with an innovative program that says, "Here is how we are going to do it"?

I was pleased to see that they had a meeting with the mayors of neighbouring municipalities. Words are cheap, but I just venture to say that these municipalities have been trying to do their job and will continue to try to do their job to build more affordable housing. But they do not have any sense of satisfaction that this ministry is going to change the amount of time it takes to cut red tape, or that this ministry is going to do anything to help provide more services when you have more people living in Peel, Durham or York. They have no confidence that this ministry is really going to work with them in an effective way.

So we deal with a situation that goes from bad to worse. We have always had a problem with housing, but we have never had the crisis that we have today, and this crisis is the reason for this nonconfidence vote. I am very pleased that our caucus will be supporting this nonconfidence vote. I just wish we did not have to, because if this government had fulfilled its commitment to do something in the time frame it had established

when it won last September 10, we would not be talking about this today.

We will be talking an awful lot more about housing. We just hope that, before it is too late for those people who have the problem, this government will do something meaningful and tangible to solve the problem.

Ms. Poole: I welcome the opportunity to remind my colleagues exactly what this government has done to protect tenants. Since assuming office in 1985, our government has moved forward with legislation which has provided the tenants of Ontario with a set of a major and crucial tenant protection measures which are unprecedented in the history of this province. The Residential Rent Regulation Act, which was introduced by this government with all-party support, protects all--

Mr. Breagh: No, no.

Ms. Poole: Well, how about two out of three?

Mr. Breagh: That's right.

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Ms. Poole: It protects all tenants in Ontario, not just those lucky enough to live in pre-1976 buildings, from unjustified rent increases. Under this legislation, for the first time, tenants have the opportunity to have the guideline increase reduced or even completely nullified if their landlords have failed to adequately operate and maintain their building. No longer are tenants required to pay arbitrary increases that bear no relation to the situation in their building. This is tenant protection.

To address the situation where rents were jacked up every time an apartment changed hands, our government has created a new province-wide rent registry. It will be a simple matter for tenants to determine whether they are being charged an illegal rent.

This government has also moved to create the new Residential Rental Standards Board. This board offers tenants new protection against shoddy maintenance and ineffective enforcement of building standards, which allow uncaring landlords to turn their homes into slums. I can assure the House that it does work. This past winter, dozens of tenants living at an Eglinton East apartment building contacted my office to complain they had no heat. Some mornings it was so cold that they went to work without taking a shower, because they could not bear to take their clothes off for that long. They explained to me that it was not a new problem; it had been going on for years. Their landlord did not appear

to care about fines and work orders. He treated them as a cost of doing business.

I contacted the rental standards board and asked them to monitor work orders on the building very closely. After I had advised the owner that failure to resolve the problem could lead to rent abatements for every tenant in the building, the problem was miraculously solved. For the first time in three years, in the words of one of the tenants, it was "toasty warm" in their apartment the next morning.

This government has also adopted legislation to prevent the charging of key money, which had reached epidemic proportions. Convictions in my riding are starting to come in, and I am shocked, absolutely shocked, by the statement of the member for Oshawa. He has misstated the facts concerning key money. The individual to whom he refers would not only have to pay the \$450 fine, that individual would also have to pay back the \$1,000 in key money which he demanded.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: It has been a while since anybody accused me of misstating facts in here, and I would like the member to withdraw that.

The Deputy Speaker: Does the member want to withdraw that?

Ms. Poole: Mr. Speaker, the facts of the matter are that the member for Oshawa stated it would cost a person only \$450, and he had made money because he charged \$1,000 in key money.

Mr. Breagh: I was quite content when she previously erroneously said that the rent review legislation had the support of all three parties, and she did correct that. I have asked her simply to withdraw a statement that I said something that was not true. That is not part of the debate here. The member should be gracious enough simply to withdraw something that is out of order and not babble on.

The Deputy Speaker: I believe the member stated what he believed were facts, and I would ask the member to withdraw that phrase.

Ms. Poole: If the member truly believed those facts, then I withdraw the fact that he misled the House.

Mr. Breagh: No.

I do not wish to pursue this at great length, but I do not intend to take that kind of thing as a withdrawal. Everybody knows how to withdraw a statement. She should simply do that.

Ms. Poole: After the member's gracious statement, what can I do but withdraw the—

Mr. Breagh: That's what you should have done the first time.

Ms. Poole: —and I will take up anything else subsequent privately with you.

Mr. Breagh: Any time, anywhere, any hour, to quote an old Jack Riddell phrase.

Ms. Poole: I remind the honourable member: he may not know my mother is in the House so would he please keep the innuendo to a minimum?

The list of government initiatives goes on and on. The Landlord and Tenant Act was changed to extend protection to roomers, boarders and lodgers. The Rental Housing Protection Act is important legislation and has been extended for a further year, or will be in the near future. Regulations to prevent the loss of rental housing to suite hotels, very important regulations to my riding, have recently been introduced.

I do reject any suggestion by the opposition that the government and government members do not care about tenants. I would like to issue a challenge to the members of the opposition. If there is a member of the opposition who has published a comprehensive tenant guide as easy to understand and as fully comprehensible as this, then he may make the statement that the government members do not care as much as the opposition does. There are many government members working for the benefit of tenants, and I would remind the opposition of this fact.

I reiterate that since 1985 our government has brought into effect some of the most comprehensive tenant protection legislation in the nation. This government has provided and will continue to provide tenant protection for all tenants in Ontario.

Mr. Beer: As we address this motion and as we look at what the government is attempting to do in this area, we have to recognize clearly that with respect to many of the tragic facts that have been set forward in terms of people who are searching for affordable and adequate housing, for people who need improved housing, those problems are indeed with us; but we must not lose sight of the fact that we are making progress through a number of initiatives and programs, not only in terms of what the province itself is doing, but particularly in terms of its work with municipalities and various nonprofit and community organizations.

If there is one thing that has struck me as a member since I joined this House last fall, it is how important it is in the construction of affordable housing that we involve the local municipalities and various community and

church organizations in the planning and delivery of those new units.

We can look in the budget and in various parts of the estimates of the Ministry of Housing to see that we are increasing the amount of money we are putting into this very important area, not the least of which is the commitment for the sum of some \$2 billion, which will flow through the Canada pension plan, in order to assist affordable housing. I want to share some of the things that have happened at a practical level in York region which I believe demonstrate the importance of this working together.

It strikes me that the kind of meeting that took place earlier this week between the Premier, the Minister of Housing, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten) and other ministers and the various mayors in the regions surrounding Metropolitan Toronto is critical. I do not know whether other members have had an opportunity to talk with some of those mayors, but I have. I believe the feeling they took from those meetings is that the province is definitely determined to work with them. Both levels of government have got to look at the kind of red tape and planning problems that exist. We have to cut those so that the housing is on line much faster.

York region has recently, in the last month, created a nonprofit housing corporation modelled on that of Peel and Durham. When we look at the kinds of things that Peel has accomplished over the last 10 or 12 years, we realize that a great deal of very creative and innovative housing can be built. I would defy anyone to go into Peel region, look at the different kinds of affordable housing it has constructed over this past decade and try to determine which was affordable and which had been built by the private sector at market rates.

There is a great deal that can be done, is being done and will be done in this area through the co-operation of both levels of government, as well as working with various church and community groups, whether we are talking about co-operatives or private nonprofit.

The second thing that has been mentioned and that is important in this regard is what happens to government lands. Again in York region, the province owns a good number of acres. We are already down the road to finding better ways of using that land for housing. In my own riding, in the town of Aurora, a major study was made by the province and the town in looking at a section on the southern end. That report has been released. The local council has dealt with it and is

moving into the planning phase to put affordable housing on that land.

By the same token, in the private sector there are now proposals in York region going to different municipalities where the private sector is coming forward with mixed housing proposals, including within that different ranges of affordable housing.

Clearly this is an issue that has to be addressed by all of those who are involved in providing housing, not just the province. But our role is perhaps seen most importantly as twofold: one, the provision of dollars and two, the provision of leadership.

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While we have focused and concentrated a great deal on the problems that exist in the housing area—and there are some and we are not denying it—I know that we here recognize, and I believe the people out in the communities and the people in the municipalities recognize, that in this Minister of Housing we have someone who is looking very carefully and thoughtfully at developing new plans and new proposals that are going to bring about an increase in the housing stock.

In order to deal with the problem, you have to first understand it, you have to get the ear of the Treasurer in cabinet to bring forward the funds and you then have to work with the people in the local communities in order to implement that proposal. I do not think there is anyone on the government side, and I would hope increasingly on the opposition side, who cannot recognize that that is happening. We are going to meet the challenge of providing more and better affordable housing, and for this reason this motion should be defeated.

Mr. Jackson: I appreciate the opportunity to add a few remarks with respect to the concerns I have been raising as the member for Burlington South about the problems in one particular area of the housing crisis, although I would like to talk about how the government is handling the land-banking provisions under the new government. That is somewhat different in terms of its way of marketing properties that are owned by the government and is markedly different from the way of the predecessor government, which it can be demonstrated had the effect of helping to stabilize markets where additional lots were put on the market.

It is a testament to a civil servant by the name of Bob MacDonald who went around this province to help stabilize that inflationary experience when lots were at such a premium.

Unfortunately, we are seeing rather the opposite with the government's stated purpose of selling off the surplus lands to the highest bidder and thus, in effect, driving up not only the price of the lots it is selling, but also the lots around and in the immediate vicinity of where it is selling the land.

I hope that the minister, understanding economics as well as she suggests she does, will re-examine from that specific point of view that element, the manner in which the government is depositing building lots in the residential market.

I hope we will use the process of this debate as an occasion to examine various elements of legislation. For my purposes today, I would like to address solely Bill 51, the government's initiative with respect to modifying rent control in this province. I hope we will use this occasion to examine elements of that bill in the hope that we will encourage the government to address its badly needed amendments, and I might even go so far as to say its massive overhaul.

I speak with a reasonable degree of authority on the subject, having worked on the bill for six and a half months and having had an experience in the private sector of dealing with meeting housing needs, both as the chairman of the housing authority and in the responsibility of marketing properties in Ontario. At the end of the total experience I had with the government's Bill 51, I felt impelled to vote against it. I did that for a series of obvious reasons which I would like to reiterate briefly.

At the time, I indicated that the direction in which it would appear Ontario was going was that there had to be a mechanism solely for the purpose of increasing rents so that it became more equitable for landlords and tenants. Nowhere in that argument was there any evidence that the needs of tenants who are most adversely affected by rent increases were being met within the structure of the bill.

So at the outset I indicated that it was a grand plan to increase the expense of the bureaucracy, and on the second day of hearings we determined that there would be a doubling and almost a tripling of the civil servants required to administer this bill. Our party at the time proposed several amendments that the minister is aware of, one of which was that the government consider a comprehensive shelter policy based on tenants' incomes and abilities to pay, where the rents are moving closer to their market values.

At the time, the ministry—I believe it was Gardner Church who was assistant deputy minister at the time—indicated that such a plan would be too expensive. I asked him: "What do

you think of your government's Bill 51? How much money do you think it will cost?" The assistant deputy minister's response was that surely a shelter allowance program would cost somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$20 million to \$22 million. We could ill afford that. It would be irresponsible to spend those kinds of dollars.

I said, and I am quoted as stating in hearings, that this bill was going to cost over \$30 million in pure administration and bureaucracy alone. Of course, I was severely laughed at and scorned for making such a wild presumption. I was wrong, of course. I was off by \$4 million, because within a year and three quarters, almost two years, that figure had gone to \$34 million.

Using the government's own figures, it was becoming increasingly apparent that we could have and should have channelled those dollars instead of increasing the civil service in this province. Again, all the bureaucracy that has been built around Bill 51 has not specifically done anything to assist those tenants based on need directly. I was compelled to vote against the bill and I still feel, to this day, it is one of the worst pieces of legislation that has ever come into this House.

It is for this reason that I patiently awaited the Thom commission report. I felt sure the learned Stuart Thom, having spent millions of dollars of taxpayers' money over an extended period of time to study the impact of rent controls—not here but in other jurisdictions—had come to similar conclusions, which I, in my own simple way, had come to when I was dealing with Bill 51. I was most distressed that, even as a new minister, the minister would have dismissed in one sentence the work of Mr. Thom.

What is most significant about Stuart Thom's findings is that the Premier indicated that his proposals would mean a 50 per cent increase for tenants. He dismissed the whole report on that basis.

I had occasion to meet with Mr. Thom during the now-famous by-election in London North, and I asked him: "Your work in the report was based on what figures—the experience of Bill 51, the Liberal's model legislation for rent control; or was it established on the old system which was in place under the Conservative government?"

He indicated that he was pleased the question was being asked because he had sensed that it was unclear, at least in the minds of the public and the politicians, that his calculations were based on an old bill which had caused rents to remain at a relatively low rate in this province. The now-famous ceiling or guideline rate under

the previous administration was four per cent; it immediately jumped to 5.2 per cent, as the then minister indicated this was a positive step forward for tenants.

The Premier referred to millions of dollars of increase; but in the two years that Bill 51 has been a feature of the calculation of rents in this province, it has had the effect of ratcheting up rents at an alarming rate.

In fact, with respect to the very levels which Mr. Thom referred to as those which were close to the market rates, which had been suppressed by the Conservative government legislation, Mr. Thom's contention was that we were moving more rapidly to that market rent under the Liberal government's new bill. The minister is painfully aware that as there are backlogs with her current bill in terms of initial applications, there are even more serious backlog problems with the appeals. I hear that in the Ottawa office alone, 100 of the 150 awards are currently under appeal.

The point here is that Thom's contention is that there may even be examples now where rents in Ontario, under Bill 51, have risen above market rates, exceeded them, and there could be cases of gouging going on under the blanket protection of Bill 51. The facts of this are going to become better known in the coming weeks as there are more and more of these awards.

1700

I wish I had more time to participate in the debate but I want to share with members four or five examples in Toronto alone: 103 West Lodge Avenue, 720 units, had a 30 per cent increase; 157 Madison Avenue had a nine per cent, an 8.7 per cent and now a 102 per cent increase under the legislation—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Time is up. Thank you. The Minister of Housing.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It gives me great pleasure to take part in today's debate on the motion of nonconfidence in the name of the Leader of the Opposition. His motion provides me with the opportunity to explain to all members of this House the bold new initiatives that this government has undertaken.

Let us not underestimate the severity of the challenge we are facing. Many families across this province are unable to find decent affordable housing. Children are growing up in crowded conditions, their parents pressured by the crisis that they face. Young people begin to think the dream of owning their own home will always be just that—a dream. What matters to me are those families, those children, those young couples and those dreams. The government in which I

serve has made housing its priority. We have moved on many fronts and we will do a great deal more.

There are three elements to the government's commitment to put housing first. They are resources, people and action. All of our initiatives tie these three elements together to ensure that families across Ontario can have decent affordable housing. Without each of these present, we could not develop the solutions that our citizens expect—resources, people and action. Members will appreciate my enthusiasm for the directions in which we are headed. I would like to take a few minutes to expand on these themes.

Resources is obviously the easiest concept to understand. It is also inevitably the way people keep score on the depth of a government's commitment to any particular issue. The provision of decent affordable housing requires resources, principally dollars and land. I am pleased to say to all those who are keeping score that we are winning. We need look no further than the recent budget introduced by my colleague the Treasurer. The Ministry of Housing was treated as a priority, receiving the largest increase in percentage terms of any major ministry. Spending by my ministry will rise almost 40 per cent in the coming year.

The budget underlined this government's commitment to housing by noting: "Including Ministry of Housing programs, shelter subsidies, property tax credits and grants and the new initiatives...support for housing will exceed \$1.4 billion in 1988-89, an increase of 77 per cent over the amount" when we came to office in 1985.

A closer look at the budget leads to an inescapable conclusion that it will enable us to make real, lasting progress in providing more affordable housing for the people of Ontario. First, with the provision of \$2 billion, we will be adding some 30,000 affordable rental units over the next three to five years to the existing stock of nonprofit housing. Up to 70 per cent of these rental units will be geared to income. In addition, we will provide \$210 million each year to support the operation of these 30,000 nonprofit units.

Taken with our prior commitments, the province will be responsible for the creation of 55,000 new units in the next three years. The budget will also provide for \$100 million in capital renovations to raise the standards of housing leased for nonprofit use.

The budget establishes a housing development fund which will take the money we net from the sale of government land and channel it into

affordable housing programs. At this time, we estimate that about \$150 million in revenue can be generated this way over the next five years.

The budget established the Ontario home ownership savings plan. Through this program the government will spend \$50 million a year helping 150,000 individuals and families saving for their first home. We shall also enhance annual shelter subsidies by \$20 million and subsidies will be provided for the construction of about 5,000 new student-resident places.

Looking at the budget initiatives, I can say that the Liberal government can be proud of its record of achievement in housing. It would be a mistake, however, to overlook the resources committed earlier.

Last month, the Minister of Government Services announced that the government was prepared to sell or lease land at below market value to help in the creation of housing for low- and moderate-income earners right across the province. As an initial step, five potential sites were identified in the Metropolitan Toronto area. There will be other sites all over the province and they will be used to solve the housing problems that we have.

Members can easily see that the government is prepared to provide the resources needed to meet the housing challenge. Were we to do nothing more, and I can assure the members that will not be the case, the resources we have already committed will make a major and fundamental difference in the province.

We understand, however, that it is people who apply resources to solve problems. People are the second element of the broad housing strategy we have embarked upon. When I say "people," I mean a number of things. To me, "people" means the protection of those who are vulnerable, those on fixed incomes, those who feel they are being taken advantage of in today's housing market.

"People" also means partnerships: partnerships with other levels of government, such as the mayors with whom we met last week; partnerships between me and other Ontario government ministers whose responsibilities directly affect affordable housing in this province, and partnerships with community groups and the private sector which designs, builds and manages nonprofit housing in the cities and towns of Ontario. "People" also means the creation of housing which will please people and enhance communities.

Let us take a look at some of the specifics about the role of people in the job we are doing.

Three months ago, I took the decision to cut restrictions on applications for subsidized housing. I announced that people would now be housed on the basis of need alone. This means that, for the first time in this province, low-income single people, couples without children at home and new arrivals in this province are free to apply for rent-g geared-to-income housing, as have been seniors and families for a number of years.

We took steps to meet special needs in the community. For example, battered women and their children are now given special priority for assisted housing. Already, about 800 battered women and hundreds more children have escaped to Ontario Housing Corp. housing from their abusive relationships.

Last December, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and I introduced a \$31.5-million program to help homeless people. This program enables us to improve emergency shelters in the short term and, at the same time, to move people from shelters into permanent housing, because it is only in permanent housing that these problems will be solved.

The program also made it very clear that we were going to help the community groups all over this province which have solutions for the problems of people who are currently homeless and which have worked successfully with homeless people all over the province. We would give our resources to those groups to help them do an even better job than the job they are currently doing.

But I understand that the answers for homeless people lie in the provision of more housing, more permanent housing, which they can afford to live in. That is the direction we are going in. That is why the increase in supply of nonprofit housing is going to make such a big difference.

All of what we have done is clear evidence that we are working for the vulnerable people in our society, for those for whom home is perhaps a distant concept. At the same time, we have accepted our obligation to those who have homes but who feel threatened by the changes going on around them.

I recently proposed to this Legislature the extension of the Rental Housing Protection Act. This interim move, for a period of one year, will permit us to find more permanent ways of protecting tenants whose affordable rental housing might be demolished or given major renovations or be converted to other uses.

Our government has also provided an enhanced level of protection to tenants in this province. Everyone living in private rental accommodation has come under the protection of rent review. Our government has extended those safeguards to an additional 250,000 people. Tenants can now be charged only a single rent increase each year. There were many, many tenants in this province who were not protected from having rent increases charged any number of times a year.

1710

The charging of key money has been made illegal. Prosecutions are moving forward. Convictions have been registered. Tenants need only call us to bring the full weight of the law down on this criminal activity. I urge those tenants who have this problem to call the ministry and we will help them. We have extended protection to roomers, boarders and lodgers. We have regulated the operators of illegal suite-hotels to protect their tenants. I want to stress that none of these measures was in place prior to this government taking office.

Let us not forget that when we talk about tenants we are talking about people, about ourselves, our neighbours, our children, our brothers and our sisters. The government will do whatever is necessary to protect our people and their homes. When we talk about people, we also mean partnerships. My colleagues and I in government have never lost sight of the fact that it is people who create housing.

Last week, we held the first in a series of meetings with Ontario's mayors. Together, the provincial and municipal governments have embarked on a process to deal with the problems that confront us. At the provincial level, we have pledged to slash the red tape that holds up the development of housing in our communities. We have indicated that every community deserves affordable housing and that we expect every community to work with us to make sure it is built. There has been a very positive initial reaction from our municipal counterparts.

The province, and the Premier in particular, has stated that we are putting housing first. We have the powers to force municipalities to do the same thing and we are prepared to use those powers wherever it is necessary. We share the same objectives. We have the will to achieve them. Together, the province and the municipalities are working quickly, as the *Toronto Star* put it, "to get cracking on this problem."

In the past, we have also worked well with the federal government. We intend to remind the

senior level of government of its responsibilities in this area. We fully expect it to play an active role. I invite the members of the third party to use whatever influence they may have with that government to help us in that direction.

Similarly, we are building on our partnerships with community groups right across this province. Earlier today, I met with representatives of the nonprofit sector to explore the next steps in the construction of the 30,000 new nonprofit housing units unveiled in the budget.

We want to move quickly. There is a great deal of work to be done. Based on today's meeting, I would say the spirit is very willing and we will be successful. Our partnerships with the private sector are crucial as well. We could not realize our plan of building 55,000 nonprofit units in the next few years without the participation of the commercial sector.

I cannot discuss people without talking about existing communities and neighbourhoods. In many cases, we are dealing with people who have lived in their homes for long years and who are concerned about how the housing challenge and the government's massive response to it will affect them.

Let me be clear. We are building high-quality housing, which will be integrated into our neighbourhoods. This will be housing that people will be proud to live in and show pride of residency and that neighbours will be proud to live next to. Nonprofit housing to this government does not mean ghettos or crime or declining property values. It means, instead, thriving communities, a quality of life and a skilful and beautiful blend of the old and the new.

Finally, I would like to spend a few minutes talking about action. The successful mixing of people and resources results in action. Commitment and resources, money and land by the government and the goodwill of people are nothing if action does not result. In addition to the achievements I have already mentioned, I would like to describe some of the action that has been taken. Since 1985, ground has been broken on 22,000 brand-new nonprofit housing units. Most of these are already completed. Construction will begin on many thousands more.

Later this week, I will lay the cornerstone for a 77-unit project sponsored by the YWCA in Riverdale. These are the results of the proficient mix of resources and people that has resulted in housing. There are more than 400 sponsoring nonprofit groups in the province with 300 municipalities participating. I have listened and acted to make existing programs relevant. I have

established \$25 million in loan guarantees for land and pledged resources to rehabilitate 33,000 rental units by 1990.

A great challenge faces us all and that means all of us must work together. We will not solve this problem overnight, but we have made great progress. We will provide decent, affordable housing for people.

My friend the Leader of the Opposition is a great friend of affordable housing in Ontario. He, his party and the third party have increased the volume of the debate. I now invite them to work with us to make sure that our objectives are met. Our commitment is clear. We are confident of the directions in which we are headed, despite the great challenge facing us. I respectfully ask for the confidence of members of this House as well.

Mr. Brandt: I look forward to sharing a few comments with the minister in regard to the subject at hand, one that is of very critical concern to the members of my party, that being the whole question of housing. I want to say at the outset that I do not, nor do the members of my party, question the sincerity or the integrity of the minister relative to the whole question of housing.

We recognize it is a very complex, very difficult subject and one the minister has shown concern over. However, I remind the minister that we are daily faced with very difficult political problems in this House, and concern and good wishes and future projections are simply not sufficient to clear up the problems we have been facing in the housing market, particularly in the Metro Toronto area, during the course of these past few short years.

I want to be helpful and positive and to contribute in, hopefully, a way that will be of some benefit to the minister in terms of analysing the essence of this debate, portions of which she may be able to apply to the various facets of her ministry. From my perspective, I think one of the problems that really appears to be inherent is the confusion in the Ministry of Housing at the moment.

That confusion results from an act, which was developed by her government, that now takes some 56 pages of explanation just to read the act alone. The minister brought out a simplified version, which one of the government members spoke of earlier, that apparently reduces this to about 20 pages in its most concise form. But the problem is that the average tenant, and I might add as well the average landlord, particularly those who are owners of small buildings, cannot understand what this act is all about.

The minister will probably say to me that is simply not true. I have brought along this afternoon physical evidence of the kind of application tenants have to put together in order to respond to one application on the part of a landlord. This is the tenant's response. It goes into some 30 separate subjects, dealing with the maintenance of the building, dealing with the landlord's position as it relates to the justification for the rent increases, and it has to respond to each and every one of those.

It now requires, as a result of Bill 51 and as a result of the legislation the government now has in place in this province, a tremendously expensive legal process the like of which was never anticipated by any members of this House. I recognize that there are many members of the government party who were not here when this legislation was brought in, but this is the outfall of it and this is not an unusual case.

One would ask, what is happening with the applications? The minister knows full well. I raised this in question period with her just a week or two weeks ago, when I talked about the application on the part of a seniors' building in the small town of Paris, not too far from that great metropolis of St. George, where the gas station is located and where the rates are somewhat more competitive than they are in other parts of the province.

In that particular area in the riding of the Treasurer himself, we have a number of tenants who are concerned about the application being brought forward by the owner of their building for a 9.7 per cent increase. Not only are they concerned about that increase; the fact of the matter is they have been two years now waiting to find out whether that application is going to be approved and whether their rent is going to be 9.7 per cent for one year compounded by a second application, which is also for 9.7 per cent.

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I can tell members that if both of those increases are allowed, and many of them are, based on the information we have received with respect to how these applications are being handled, the fact of the matter is that they will be forced out of their homes.

It was interesting, as I perused this document, to see the number of tenants that were on fixed income, the number of tenants that were receiving absolutely no pensions whatever. The number of tenants that would be forced out of their homes in this building if the application went through is absolutely staggering.

Bill 51 causes me a great deal of concern because there is an old saying that justice delayed is justice denied. In this particular instance, what we have is justice delayed in a very real sense because the applications are simply taking too long and the information that is coming through with respect to the bottom line for those applications, namely what is going to be allowable, is not coming through in a way that will give the tenants the kind of peace of mind they require.

There is another part that bothers me, the slowness, if you will. I recognize the resources the minister has put into this area of activity within her ministry to try to hear these things more quickly. But I suggest to her that what she has done in the last couple of years is to increase and bloat that bureaucracy by some 220 per cent. That is not even including the \$3 million supplement she put into her budget this year to get her through the year. I would say that all those things put together would indicate to her that there is something wrong with the entire process. It is far too complicated and far too cumbersome. The tenants and the landlords have both lost faith and lost trust in the system.

I suggest that putting more money into the bureaucracy, in particular, is not the solution. The massive backlog is going to continue because the process is proving to be unfair and should be looked at.

The second part of the concern I have, moving off the rental accommodation if I can for a moment, is the difficulty that many of the Metro tenants and many of the people who live in the Metro area are facing at the moment. This is not just related exclusively to this part of Ontario, but certainly is being experienced in other parts of Ontario as well. Not only can they not find an apartment to rent, one that is available—they simply cannot get into a building—but second, the whole cost of purchasing a home has reached a level where it is totally unaffordable for the average Ontario citizen at this time.

What was the response of this government? What did they do in order to contribute to the solution we all look for with a problem of this kind, namely a problem of affordability? What they did is they brought in a new budget and that new budget brought in some very substantial increases in the construction industry that were totally unnecessary.

We now have a \$200,000 home in this area, if you can buy a \$200,000 home in this area, which in itself is a major question. The increases, and I

asked this in a question earlier today in question period, now total some \$3,255.

Mr. B. Rae: How much?

Mr. Brandt: It is \$3,255. That is made up of a one per cent increase in the sales tax, which is about \$2,000. The land transfer tax, just the additional portion, the added part, is \$355. Now, listen to this: Here is how they build more homes. I want all the Liberals to listen to this. They expand the sales tax to include concrete and to include asphalt mix. We did not have that in the sales tax before. What they do is broaden the sales tax, the very thing they were so critical about when a former government did it at one time. What they have done is exactly the same thing, but they have hit the housing industry at exactly the wrong time. The cost of that is some \$900.

If they add up the figures I have just shared with them, what has been happening, as a result of this absolutely insane budget they have brought forward, is that the cost of a house is now going to be \$3,255 more on average, just because of the moves the government has made in the budget. I might add that does not include any added sales tax, which the government knows went up 14 per cent in this budget. The cost is moving from seven to eight per cent. One per cent gives the minister—in this case, the Treasurer—an additional 14 per cent in sales tax revenue and this additional cost I am referring to does not relate to items like furnishings and equipment for a new home.

I say to the minister that her concern and the problems she has identified in housing could have been met, at least in part, had she argued in cabinet against a budget that increased the price of housing in this province unnecessarily. If nothing else, the minister could have exempted certain building materials. She could have exempted some of this added expansion of the tax in order to bring down the price of a house, because I can tell the minister, and I know she understands this from her economic background, for each \$1,000 or \$1,500 or \$2,000 added on to the price of a home, she excludes certain people who reach the break point. Those people are unable to make the move as a result of that price edging up higher and higher. They are prepared to make the sacrifice, but the sacrifice becomes simply too great.

Let me tell the House another thing that concerns me. When you see this kind of application in the whole rent review process, particularly as it relates to small apartment buildings—my family was in the apartment rental

business at one time and I can remember the day, and so can my colleagues, when there was a kind of rapport, a relationship, if you will, where the people who rented apartments from my father were friends of his.

What we have done now is we have brought about an adversarial relationship where everybody is pitted against the other guy. You have the landlord pitted against the tenant, because the government insisted upon including in its legislation that all apartment buildings of six units and under should be included in this legislation. What that has done is killed off the small investor.

It has killed off the little guy who went out, bought a building, had a couple of tenants in the building and invested his hard-earned money, maybe because it was going to be a long-term pension plan. What the government has done is taken those kinds of investors, those kinds of small landlords and edged them out of the market.

I know of cases, with no exaggeration, where landlords who were in the market at one time have taken their keys, dropped them down and walked away from their buildings because they cannot comply with this kind of legalistic, bureaucratic approach to the whole market. Even some of the large landlords are having difficulties, some of the very big landlords. But I am not arguing their case at the moment because I understand they are big enough to look after themselves; what I do argue, however, is that some of the government's legislation is making it virtually impossible for those small, limited-size landlords to get into the market to help the government overcome the housing crisis.

Government in and by itself cannot create all the housing that is going to be necessary. The government knows that. Our party wants to set before the government, and is prepared to work with it, encouraging the private sector to get back into the market. I ask the government to look at those small buildings as one way of encouraging more investment and encouraging some people to take up some of that excess demand out there. Right now, I want to tell the government, its legislation has frightened them.

Let me give a specific example of a situation I know of, a small landlord who had a very close working relationship with one of the tenants in his building, and this particular elderly lady was given a discounted rent simply because she was a good tenant. A small landlord will make a deal with a good tenant. If the tenant is not noisy, if the tenant does not destroy the building and if the

tenant pays the rent on time, guess what happens? The landlord says, "I've got a good tenant I want to hang on to," so he discounts the rent in order to make that unit available for that individual.

When Bill 51 came in, what happened was that the rent was held to an artificially low level on that particular unit because the individual knew full well that as soon as those increases came through at some later point, they would start at the base level for that good tenant. So the landlord could no longer make a deal, if you will, with the tenant. The landlord could not reach out and say to this tenant, "I am prepared to work co-operatively with you on your personal unit."

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That is what we have lost by making government so all-in-control of this particular facet of provincial activity. I say it is wrong, and I tell the government it is not going to get the private sector back into the market and it is not going to have them provide some of the units it requires to get out of the dilemma it is in now.

Yes, we need a form of rent control; yes, we need to have the kinds of things that will protect tenants against bad landlords. But we also have to have some encouragement there to get some of the private capital back into the market, some of these small landlords who can be very helpful to the government in meeting some of the challenges it has before it.

Mr. B. Rae: I am proud to participate in this debate, and I want to congratulate all the members of my caucus who participated in it.

I am under strict instructions not to say anything critical of the third party, but I must say with respect to the speech I have just heard, I will make only this very brief point: I find it hard to listen to arguments critical of Bill 51 from a party that, together with the Liberal Party, is responsible for the passage of Bill 51, with one or two exceptions. If the members of the Conservative Party had joined us, we would have been able to defeat Bill 51 and force the Liberal government of the day to bring in better legislation that would have protected tenants. That is what we would have been able to do.

However, it is the government of the day that is responsible for our situation. I want to say that there is no issue upon which this government deserves to be judged critically by the people of this province that is as clear-cut and as overwhelming as the question of housing.

I do not think there is a member in this House who does not receive on a daily basis the kinds of really tragic stories from constituents who are

applying for assisted housing, who are living in very difficult circumstances and who are now forced, by a point system which has been endorsed by the Liberal government, to wait for years and years for housing that will be adequate for them and their families.

We have a rent review bill that is specifically designed to inflict some of the largest and highest increases imaginable on tenants. We warned the government over two years ago that that would be the impact of Bill 51 and we have been proven correct.

We have a government which is afraid to do what needs to be done to ensure that housing is at the very top of the priority list and not somewhere mired at the bottom, which is where it is today. We have a government that is prepared to lead with its press releases and its media events, but which is unable to deliver the goods.

We have a double standard: a government that meets with municipal officials, where the Premier takes over the meeting and the headlines in the newspapers say how the Liberals are going to get tough with the municipalities. At the same time as that is taking place, the government is releasing its own estimates book, which shows that the government has consistently underspent its budget for the Ministry of Housing. It even shows a discrepancy of some \$28 million between the figures listed in the budget of the Treasurer and the figures listed in the estimates book in terms of what the government is going to be spending for next year.

We have a waiting list that has gone up 77 per cent in the past two and a half years and we have a government that has consistently failed to deliver on its promises with respect to affordable housing. We have instead budget announcements stating, for example, that the government is going to encourage the nonprofit groups to borrow up to \$2 billion from the Canada pension plan.

We asked our researchers to phone up the Ministry of Treasury and Economics to say: "How did you come up with the figure of 30,000 units? Will those 30,000 units be new units?" They said, "No, we don't anticipate that they will be new units." The Treasury and Economics official said that only 15,000 of the 30,000 would in fact be new units; that the remaining 15,000 would be existing private-sector rental apartments, which are either to be purchased—10,000 units—or leased—5,000 units. When our researchers contacted the Ministry of Housing to find out whether this was correct, they were unable to confirm the Treasury's figures. The

statement was given by Housing ministry staff that the 15-to-10-to-5 ratios were used by Treasury solely as assumptions to be used to calculate overall government expenditures.

Wherever we go with this housing situation, we have a sense that this government does not have a clue, it does not know where it is going, it does not know what the problem is, it does not know what needs to be done.

I want to deal specifically for a few moments with the question of rental housing. I have made a point in this House of raising with the minister and with the Premier examples of where we can show apartment units trading on the open market for 25, 50, 100, 150 and 200 per cent of what they were trading for two years ago. I say to all the members of the House that there is only one reason apartments are trading for that much money. They are trading for that much money because those who are purchasing them are convinced that the cash flow they will get from rents will more than pay for what they are shelling out.

I asked these questions in response to a number of phone calls I have had from people who have been involved in the real estate market themselves. They said, "Are you aware of what's going on?" I said, "The only thing we see is the effect it has on the rents." They say: "Go behind the rents and look to see what is happening in the resale market. Bill 51 is an invitation to speculate." That is the word we got from people who are in the business themselves. We can establish it clearly: Bill 51 is a bill which is having the effect of encouraging speculation, not of stopping it.

I can tell the minister that until she comes to terms with that, all of the points which have been made about the bureaucracy, all of the points which have been made about the unfairness will continue to be made in this House, because they are going to be experienced by tenants.

The Liberal rent review law is a bad, sick joke. It is unenforceable. It is unworkable. It is providing for rental increases that in some cases are even higher than so-called market values. It is a system that has broken down and is failing to work. It is time this government came to terms with that.

I want to emphasize as well the question of the collapse in the rent review system, looking at the complete inadequacy of what this government has suggested. Perhaps I could be anecdotal for a moment, Mr. Speaker, if you would permit me. I was reading with interest the Saturday Star, not

because it had an article about me in it, I can assure you, but because—

Mr. Breagh: It was a very nice article.

Mr. B. Rae: It was a very nice article. I want to say to the member for Oshawa that I appreciate the resolution coming from him that he considered me to be the leader of the New Democratic Party. That is the kind of support I need. It is the headline that says: "Will Mutiny Sink the Liberals?" I am sure members opposite will have all read this particular edition of the paper.

If one reads the opening section of the Toronto Star—I would just ask the minister to do this when she is giving her speeches about how the government has laboured forth over the last two and a half years and produced a couple of hundred units here and there. I want her to have a look at what is going on out there in the private market: "The Landmark of Thornhill. A Bay-view address. Carriage-trade condominiums within a 24-acre park estate."

Turn the page to talk about "Marina Del Rey...Toronto's finest waterfront community." It has been pointed out by my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) that it is a community that is fine because it is right next to a public park which all of us have paid for.

We then turn the page to a rather dramatic two-page foldout describing "Grand Harbour in Etobicoke. Lakeside condominiums in the classic style." Advertising for units that have not even been approved; advertising for units whose official plan does not even include them; advertising for speculators to: "Come on down. Put your money down here, because you're going to make money because the prices are going to go up."

It goes on. It is page after page. Here is one: "Live where the city lives. Condominium residences on University Avenue.... The Empire Plaza.... Behind its boldly streamlined exterior of granite and glass"—sounds like the consistency of the Liberal cabinet—"Empire Plaza offers a luxurious private domain."

An hon. member: Granite is the head part of it.

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Mr. B. Rae: Granite is the head part, and glass is where you would normally find the soul.

"And with ownership comes the EmpireCard which gives you instant access to a variety of personal services.

"EmpireCard privileges: florist, housekeeping, limousine, catering, travel, business centre, fitness, personal beauty care, valet."

Interjection.

Mr. B. Rae: "Valet." The member heard it. How screened is my valet?

"Empire Plaza. Undeniably downtown. Unmistakably exclusive. And your opportunity to own Canada's single most desirable address. Available from \$250,000 to over \$1,000,000."

That is the housing that is being constructed in Liberal Ontario, not housing for ordinary people. It is luxury housing. It is luxury condo after luxury condo, page after page, from Tridel to Empire Plaza. It is a disgrace. We have a situation in this province in which private greed and private enrichment have replaced the notion of the public good when it comes to housing in this province. That is what has happened. That is what has been presided over by the Liberal Party. That is what it has allowed to happen. It has sat back and done nothing.

When we have said there is speculation going on in rental housing, there is speculation going on on condominiums, there is speculation going on in private development, they say: "No, no, it could not be." Let me tell the members, it is happening. It is taking place because we have a government in this province which is not prepared to do what needs to be done on behalf of its citizens.

We have a situation where, with respect to health, for example, we have accepted as a community the fundamental reality that health is not a commodity to be traded on the open market. When it comes to education, we have accepted as a community that education is not something that people should be deprived of; it is something that should be provided on a public basis. When it comes to housing, we have this curious ambivalence on the part of the Liberal and Tory parties, and that ambivalence says housing is something to be left entirely to the private sector, and what government does and what they do will be as an afterthought.

I am here to say today that as far as I am concerned, as far as the New Democratic Party is concerned, shelter and housing are fundamental human rights and something that every government has an obligation to ensure every citizen has, every family has. I am here to say that the record of this government on housing is so disgraceful that it deserves to have a motion of nonconfidence moved against it in this Legislature.

The choices we face are very clear. Either we can accept our social responsibilities with respect to housing, or we can sit back and wait for the private market to do it. I have heard many

nostalgic pleas for the world of the past, criticisms of Bill 51 from those, perhaps, who would like to see us enter a world where we have no protections at all, saying the answer will be when the private market comes back.

I am here to say that it is not going to work. We need a commitment to a mixed economy in housing. We need a commitment, yes, to the rights of ownership but not to the rights of speculation; yes, to the rights of pride that a family has in its own home but not to a situation and to a structure which forces thousands of families to be split up, which forces thousands of families to be living in unacceptable and intolerable conditions when it comes to basic quality of life.

We say no to a situation which treats one part of our society as if it is a privileged few and which treats everybody else as if they are somehow to be left, neglected and simply treated as some kind of a hidden welfare problem.

We insist on the premise and on the view that housing is a right, that housing is something that the government has a responsibility to ensure is provided, and we say quite categorically that if the private market cannot do the job, then it is something that the public market has an obligation to move into to provide and create.

I say as well that it is perfectly obvious that whether we look at the question of rental housing, which is now a recipe for speculation; whether we look at the situation with respect to affordable housing for working families, where again speculation has made their lives impossible; whether we deal with the very real problem of homeless people; whether we look at the units that are being destroyed and wiped out that are now affordable and are there for people, whatever we look at, we find a common thread—a government which has failed to do its job, which has failed to listen and which has failed to provide the housing that the vast majority of people in this province think should be there.

I think it is fair to say that this government promised a great deal on housing in 1985. It promised a great deal on housing in 1986. It promised a great deal on housing in 1987. The situation has deteriorated. The situation has got worse since it took over. The last promise it made was in 1988 and it is as worthless as the ones it made in 1985 with respect to housing.

It is with a great sense of pride that I endorse the motion standing in the name of my colleague, the member for Oshawa, endorse the motion that

this House has lost its confidence in this government because of its inability and its failure to deal with a fundamental human need in this society: the need to be housed well, the need to be able to take pride in what you have, the need to feel that at the end of the day you have got a roof over your head and a shelter that is decent. That is a need that is not being met today. Let none of us take any pride in the fact that this government has been unable to do it.

Mr. Speaker: That concludes the allotted time for debate on the motion of nonconfidence. I know all members have been listening carefully and are fully aware of the motion, so I will place the motion.

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The House divided on Mr. B. Rae's motion, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Cunningham, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Hampton, Harris, Jackson, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, McCague, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Pollock, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Runciman, Sterling, Villeneuve, Wildman.

Nays

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Curling, Daigeler, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Epp, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fulton, Furlong, Grandmaître, Haggerty, Hart, Henderson, Hošek, Kanter, Keyes, Kozyra, Kwinter, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett;

Lupusella, MacDonald, Mahoney, Mancini, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinety, Miller, Morin, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., Offer, O'Neill, Y., Oddie Munro, Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, G., Poirier, Polsinelli, Poole, Ramsay, Reyecraft, Riddell, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Wilson, Wong.

Ayes 30; nays 82.

Motion negated.

The House adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

PUBLIC TEACHING HOSPITALS

98. Mr. Rae: Would the Minister of Health provide the following information: (1) How many paid intern positions in public teaching hospitals have been set in Ontario for 1986, 1987, 1988? (2) How many residency positions in public teaching hospitals have been set in Ontario for 1986, 1987, 1988? (3) What are the average hours worked (a) in a week and (b) in a month by (i) residents in public teaching hospitals, (ii) interns in public teaching hospitals, (iii) registered nurses and (iv) other staff? [Tabled April 5, 1988]

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: 1. For the 1987-88 training year there are 594 internship (first-year) positions in Ontario hospitals funded by the Ministry of Health. In the 1986-87 training year there were 601 positions, and for the 1985-86 training year there were 603 positions. In the past few years, the ministry has funded a number of internships equal to the number of graduates of Ontario medical schools.

2. As of November 1987, the Ontario Physician Manpower Data Centre reported 1,791 residency positions in Ontario public teaching hospitals funded through the Ministry of Health. In the 1986-87 training year there were 1,838 positions funded, and in February 1986 (1985-86 training year) there were 1,803 positions. The Ministry of Health and the Ontario Council of Faculties of Medicine agreed to reduce 40 residency positions a year in Ontario for five years beginning in July 1987. The change for 1987-88 is slightly more than this number. Other factors which affect the numbers of resident positions funded for a given year include attrition, changes by residents from full-time to part-time status and approved but unfilled positions.

3. Information on the number of hours worked by week or month by residents, interns, nurses and other staff in hospitals should be requested from the Ontario Council of Administrators of Teaching Hospitals for teaching hospitals and from the Ontario Hospital Association for other hospitals.

MINISTER'S TRIP

100. Mr. McLean: Would the Minister of Tourism and Recreation explain the purpose of his recent trip to Calgary, Alberta, during the 15th Winter Olympic Games and provide the

following information: the cost of the trip, how many people accompanied the minister and who they were, the cost for limousine services, the cost for receptions held by the minister and who they were for? [Tabled April 6, 1988]

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The purpose of my trip to Calgary, Alberta, during the 15th Winter Olympic Games was to provide support for the bids by Toronto for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games and by Thunder Bay for the 1993 World Nordic Games; to meet my colleagues from other provinces to discuss issues to be raised at the forthcoming federal-provincial-territorial meeting; and of course, in view of the significant support given by Ontario to the development of high-performance athletes, to meet some of our Olympic team members and encourage their efforts.

I was able, along with members of the Toronto/Ontario Olympic Council, to meet some members of the International Olympic Committee and voice our support of the bid to host the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Toronto and southern Ontario. Similarly, I met delegates of the International Ski Federation to signal our backing of Thunder Bay's bid for the 1993 World Nordic Games.

With my host, the Honourable Norman Weiss, Minister of Recreation and Parks in Alberta, and the ministers of some other provinces, I held preliminary discussions on some of the important agenda items for the fall federal-provincial-territorial meeting on amateur sport and recreation.

And I was pleased to meet some of our Ontario athletes, assure them of our pride and support and was delighted to witness skater Elizabeth Manley's thrilling performance in winning her silver medal. I was interested as well to see the various new games sites and facilities and to learn of the organizing committee's operations.

I was accompanied by Mrs. O'Neil, whose expenses were paid by me personally. I was also accompanied by my executive assistant and my special assistant for policy matters.

The total cost of our visit was \$6,957.90, directed to transportation, accommodation, meals and taxis. I incurred no expenses for limousine services, nor did I hold any receptions.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

NATUROPATHY

Sessional paper P-1, re naturopathy.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Under the new legislation which is being developed to govern the health professions, naturopaths will be allowed to provide care to the people of Ontario as unregulated practitioners. As is now the case, naturopaths will not be able to use certain modalities of treatment such as surgery or prescribing drugs licensed to other practitioners.

In the future, naturopaths will have opportunities to have their regulatory position re-evaluated to determine if they meet the criteria. They continue to make submissions to the Health Professions Legislation Review. The review is currently evaluating these new submissions.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Sessional paper P-14, re widening of Highway 115.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: In recognition of the need to conserve farm lands, the ministry has endeavoured to minimize the property requirements along the entire Highway 115 corridor.

The highway cross-section has been designed with a 22-metre grass median which will allow for the future widening of the highway on the median side. Ultimately, Highway 115 between Highway 35 and Peterborough has been proposed to be built to an eight-lane freeway cross-section with a concrete barrier. It is conventional practice, in the development of a new freeway, to stage the construction with a

wide median which will accommodate the future widening requirements.

To alter the design at this time would result in significantly higher initial construction costs because of the additional cost to construct the concrete barrier, associated median storm water drainage system and the reconstruction of the existing roadway which would otherwise not have been affected.

Even if a decision were made to construct the road utilizing a concrete barrier in the first stage, some property would be required for the initial widening. Ultimately, the ministry would have to deal with the same owners again to secure more property for the second stage of widening.

The ministry's proposals were reviewed with the public and the involved municipalities a number of years ago and the issue of utilizing a concrete barrier median was not raised at that time. Any changes to the design at this stage will result in delays to construction.

It should be pointed out as well that Highway 35-115 from Highway 401 to Highway 35 is not a freeway. It was built to a lower standard which still allows for limited direct access to the highway. The concrete median along the highway was specifically constructed to reduce the number of collisions associated with left turns on and off the highway as well as vehicles crossing the highway. In comparison, Highway 115 north of Highway 35 will be built to full freeway standards with complete access control.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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- | | |
|---|--|
| Adams, Peter (Peterborough L) | Fontaine, Hon. René , Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L) |
| Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP) | Fulton, Hon. Ed , Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L) |
| Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L) | Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L) |
| Beer, Charles (York North L) | Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C. , Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L) |
| Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L) | Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP) |
| Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L) | Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L) |
| Bradley, Hon. James J. , Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L) | Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP) |
| Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC) | Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC) |
| Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP) | Hart, Christine E. (York East L) |
| Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L) | Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L) |
| Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP) | Hošek, Hon. Chaviva , Minister of Housing (Oakwood L) |
| Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L) | Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC) |
| Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L) | Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC) |
| Caplan, Hon. Elinor , Minister of Health (Oriole L) | Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP) |
| Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L) | Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L) |
| Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP) | Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G. , Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L) |
| Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L) | Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L) |
| Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L) | Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L) |
| Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L) | Kwinter, Hon. Monte , Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L) |
| Conway, Hon. Sean G. , Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L) | Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP) |
| Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L) | LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L) |
| Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP) | Leone, Laureano (Downsview L) |
| Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L) | Lipsett, Ron (Grey L) |
| Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC) | Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L) |
| Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC) | MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L) |
| Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC) | Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP) |
| Curling, Hon. Alvin , Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L) | Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L) |
| Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L) | Mancini, Hon. Remo , Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L) |
| Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L) | Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC) |
| Eakins, Hon. John F. , Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L) | Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP) |
| Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A. , Speaker (Perth L) | Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L) |
| Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L) | McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC) |
| Elston, Hon. Murray J. , Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L) | McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L) |
| Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L) | McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L) |
| Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC) | McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L) |
| Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP) | McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC) |
| Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L) | McLeod, Hon. Lyn , Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L) |
| Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L) | Miclash, Frank (Kenora L) |
| Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L) | Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L) |
| Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L) | |

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
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Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
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 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President
 of the Council and Minister of Intergovern-
 mental Affairs
 Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treas-
 urer of Ontario and Minister of Economics
 and Minister of Financial Institutions
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environ-
 ment
 Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal
 Affairs
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural
 Resources
 O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
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 Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the
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 Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
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 Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of
 Revenue
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Develop-
 ment
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry,
 Trade and Technology
 Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health
 Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development
 Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services
 Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities
 Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services
 Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio
 Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Bossy, Maurice L.: assistant to the Minister of Housing (Chatham-Kent L)
 Campbell, Sterling: assistant to the Minister of Mines (Sudbury L)
 Chiarelli, Robert: assistant to the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Ottawa West L)
 Collins, Shirley (Ms.): assistant to the Minister of Labour (Wentworth East L)
 Cordiano, Joseph: assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Lawrence L)
 Ferraro, Rick E.: assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Guelph L)
 Haggerty, Ray: assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Niagara South L)
 Hart, Christine E. (Ms.): assistant to the Minister of the Environment (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James: assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Kanter, Ron: assistant to the Solicitor General (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A.: assistant to the Minister of Health (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B.: assistant to the Minister of Northern Development (Port Arthur L)
 Lupusella, Tony: assistant to the Minister of Transportation (Dovercourt L)
 McGuigan, James F.: assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources (Essex-Kent L)
 Miller, Gordon I.: assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E.: assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Carleton East L)
 Neumann, David E.: assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Brantford L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford: assistant to the Minister of Financial Institutions (York Mills L)
 Offer, Steven: assistant to the Attorney General (Mississauga North L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Mrs.): assistant to the Minister of Education (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Pelissero, Harry E.: assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Lincoln L)
 Polsinelli, Claudio: assistant to the Minister of Treasury and Economics (Yorkview L)
 Ruprecht, Tony: assistant to the Minister of Citizenship (Parkdale L)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration of justice: chairman, Mr. Callahan; vice-chairman, Ms. Hart; members, Messrs. Chiarelli, Cureatz, Farnan, Hampton, Kanter, Keyes, Ms. Poole, Messrs. Sola and Sterling; clerk, Lynn Mellor.

Finance and economic affairs: chairman, Mr. D. R. Cooke; vice-chairman, Mr. Ferraro; members, Messrs. Haggerty, Kozyra, Mackenzie, McCague, Morin-Strom, Neumann, J. B. Nixon, Pelissero and Villeneuve; clerk, Franco Carrozza.

General government: chairman, Mrs. Stoner; vice-chairman, Mr. Mahoney; members, Mr. Black, Ms. Bryden, Messrs. Charlton, Daigeler, Mrs. Marland, Messrs. Matrondola, McLean, Owen and M. C. Ray; clerk, Deborah Deller.

Government agencies: chairman, Mr. McLean; vice-chairman, Mr. Jackson; members, Messrs. Black, Breaugh, Dietsch, Furlong, Lipsett, Miss Martel, Messrs. Runciman, South and Velshi; clerk, Douglas Arnott.

Legislative Assembly: chairman, Mr. Epp; vice-chairman, Mr. Morin; members, Messrs. Breaugh, Cordiano, Faubert, J. M. Johnson, McClelland, Polsinelli, Sterling, Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Swart; clerk, Smirle Forsyth.

Ombudsman: chairman, Miss Nicholas; vice-chairman, Mr. Elliot; members, Messrs. Bossy, Carrothers, Charlton, Elliot, Henderson, Lupusella, MacDonald, McLean, Miss Nicholas, Messrs. Philip and Pollock; clerk, Todd Decker.

Public accounts: chairman, Mr. Philip; vice-chairman, Mr. Pouliot; members, Messrs. Balinger, Carrothers, Dietsch, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Martel, Messrs. Offer, Pope, Runciman and Smith; clerk, Douglas Arnott.

Regulations and private bills: chairman, Mr. Fleet; vice-chairman, Mr. Beer; members, Mr. Cleary, Mrs. Fawcett, Messrs. McCague, Pol-

lock, Pouliot, Ruprecht, Smith, Sola and Swart; clerk, Tannis Manikel.

Resources development: chairman, Mr. Laughren; vice-chairman, Mr. Wildman; members, Mr. Brown, Ms. Collins, Mrs. Grier, Mr. Leone, Mrs. Marland, Messrs. McGuigan, Miclash, Miller and Wiseman; clerk, Todd Decker.

Social development: chairman, Mr. Adams; vice-chairman, Mrs. LeBourdais; members, Messrs. Allen, Campbell, Cousens, Jackson, R. F. Johnston, McClelland, McGuinty, Mrs. O'Neill and Mr. Tatham; clerk, Franco Carrozza.

SELECT COMMITTEES

Constitutional reform: chairman, Mr. Beer; vice-chairman, Miss Roberts; members, Messrs. Allen, Breaugh, Cordiano, Elliot, Eves, Mrs.

Fawcett, Messrs. Harris, Morin and Offer; clerk, Deborah Deller.

Education: chairman, Ms. Poole; vice-chairman, Mr. Reycraft; members, Messrs. D. S. Cooke, Furlong, Jackson, R. F. Johnston, Keyes, Mahoney, Miclash, Mrs. O'Neill and Mr. Villeneuve; clerk, Lynn Mellor.

Energy: chairman, Mr. Carrothers; vice-chairman, Mr. McGuigan; members, Messrs. Brown, Charlton, Cureatz, Mrs. Grier, Messrs. Matrundola, M. C. Ray, Runciman, South and Mrs. Sullivan; clerk, Tannis Manikel.

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. The other lists, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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